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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Sustainable development

Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Economic and Social Council
2014 session
Items 5 and 9 of the provisional agenda

High-level segment

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Summary report of the 2013 parliamentary hearing

Note by the President of the General Assembly

The present document contains the summary report of the 2013 parliamentary hearing, held in New York on 14 and 15 November 2013, which is circulated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/123 (see annex I).

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Annex I

Rethinking sustainable development: the quest for a "transformational" agenda in 2015

Parliamentary hearing held at United Nations Headquarters: summary report

1. The 2013 parliamentary hearing was held at United Nations Headquarters on 14 and 15 November. It was organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, and brought together close to 200 parliamentarians from a range of countries to discuss the theme "Rethinking sustainable development: the quest for a 'transformational' global agenda in 2015". It thus provided a unique opportunity for parliamentarians to bring their own perspective to the ongoing post-2015 development process, including the formulation of a new set of sustainable development goals for both developed and developing countries.

2. The Presidents of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Inter-Parliamentary Union addressed the hearing. A message from the United Nations Secretary-General was also conveyed. Their statements, all of which reaffirmed the role of parliaments in both the design and implementation of the post-2015 agenda, may be found on the Inter-Parliamentary Union website at http://www.ipu.org/Splz-e/unga13.htm.

Session I: A new economic model for sustainable development: The path towards well-being

> Society is faced with a profound dilemma, the growth dilemma.
>
> Professor Tim Jackson, University of Surrey, England
> Author of *Prosperity without Growth*

3. Building on the main outcome of the parliamentary consultation held at the 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in March 2013, known as the Quito communiqué, the first session of the hearing delved into the question of how to rethink the prevailing growth-centric economic model so that it can promote human well-being as the ultimate aim of sustainable development. Inspired by a powerful keynote statement and an interview session with a mixed panel of parliamentarians and permanent representatives, the debate began by considering the so-called growth dilemma, from both the economic and environmental perspectives.

4. The first horn of the growth dilemma relates to the fact that the consumption levels that the wealthier countries have been enjoying are unsustainable. There seems to be a global recognition of that fact, not least by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, leading in part to the global ambition to establish sustainable development goals as a way of improving life for people in the long term without ruining the prospects for future generations of being able to realize the same ambition.

5. The new thinking arises not just from ecological considerations, although unbridled growth is a factor of negative developments such as climate change or biodiversity loss, but also from a recognition that the growth-based economy relies unsustainably on resource exploitation. Until the turn of the millennium, resource prices were declining, making resources more accessible to more people, constituting a success story of technology. However, at the beginning of the current millennium, the trend reversed and the price of commodities across the world began to rise, heralding a new economic era in which cheap resource-fuelled growth is no longer possible. Even before the financial crisis of 2008-2009, growth rates in the wealthiest countries had been declining for about a decade.

6. Of course, and as noted by many participants, growth has brought benefits, and, indeed, not only material ones, such as higher life expectancy. Therefore, growth as an economic model is to be understood and actively managed, not simply forsaken. There are many parts of the world where the average annual per capita income is about US$ 10,000 or less and where growth is still vital to promoting the satisfaction of basic needs, such as increased life expectancy and participation in education, reduced infant mortality and maternal morbidity. From the standpoint of the developing world, the post-growth discussion is a luxury of countries that have already grown.

7. There is thus a clear moral imperative to make room for growth and higher consumption where it is genuinely needed. There is no single sustainable development model: strategies will vary depending on countries' circumstances. Social goals must complement economic goals, and above all must not exacerbate income disparity. They must go hand in hand with ambitious environmental policies, otherwise growth will continue to damage the environment and deplete resources.

8. After a certain point in the increasing of per capita income, the pattern of improvement starts to decline. In a paradox of development, advanced countries such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have lower life expectancy rates than Chile, Costa Rica or Cuba. Thus, arises the second horn of the growth dilemma, namely, which parliamentarians from developed countries in particular must contend with, why are the wealthy nations still chasing a growth-based economic model when it is clearly not sustainable, when it is not delivering even financial stability and when it is overstepping the most basic ecological and social limits?

9. The growth-based model chases itself continually and, in order to remain stable, has to nurture a consumerist culture where people become dependent on acquiring more things. It is this key feature of the modern economy, the pursuit of labour productivity and innovation, that is keeping the developed world trapped in the same pattern. That pursuit is based on the thesis that if the economy does not grow sufficiently, with more goods and services produced, there will not be enough jobs and therefore not enough tax revenues. Consequently, unemployment will go up, consumption will go down; government deficits will increase, public expenditures will decrease; loan defaults will rise, investment will drop — this is a spiral of collapse. To avert that spiral, the world chases ever more growth, building a complicated set of relationships based on the work of a growing number of people to produce increasing quantities of goods for people to buy, while investing their savings in consumption, and to ensure continuous pursuit of the growth needed to keep economic stability alive. The financial system too conspires to provide

consumers with credit so that they can afford increasing levels of consumption to keep the productive machinery running. Debt thus incurred helps entrench people in the same pattern of overproduction and excessive consumption.

10. It is a paradox that many people in advanced industrialized societies feel highly unsatisfied even though their material needs are met. Life in a consumption-based society produces high levels of anxiety, on which several of the parliamentarians in the room commented, based on their interaction with constituents. Those who are able to participate in consumption do so often at the price not only of excessive debt but also of a quite disproportionate intensity in their working life, and at the same time they are plagued by the anxiety of one day being unable to continue living that way. Meanwhile, those who cannot afford that level of consumption live in the fear that tomorrow things will be even worse.

11. Resolving the growth dilemma requires envisaging a new approach to human well-being: sustainable prosperity, which in turn requires reflection regarding what prosperity really is. What it clearly is not is achievement of more and more material growth or ever greater consumer affluence. Prosperity is as much about our psychological and social health, our ability to enjoy the environment around us, and our sense of belonging in society, as it is about acquiring things. It is the art of living well on a finite planet, with a sense of freedom to be able to make one's own choices. For this vision to take root, however, we need to construct an economic system that is fit for purpose.

> The concept of well-being needs to include the idea of serenity.
>
> Senator Christiane Vienne, Belgium

12. For such a system to succeed, there are three fundamental economic parameters that have to work in the service of human well-being: enterprise, investment and money. The first issue is whether we as human beings can think of enterprise as service, encompassing time dedicated to others, and to improving their quality of life. It is another paradox of the current economic model that the most precious time of all, the unpaid time (mostly among women) used to maintain the household, does not even feature in national accounting. This concept of enterprise, being about service rather than things, is less reliant on material inputs and does not increase environmental damage. Because such enterprise is about working to deliver services to others it is labour-intensive and employment-rich: in construction, renovation, teaching, health care, recreation and leisure activities. The idea of enterprise as service also entails a social dimension, involving the effort to establish a common interest between entrepreneurs and workers.

13. Investment is another important economic relationship, defining the relation between the present and the future. It has to be re-envisioned and transformed from a speculative activity exclusively for private gain to one dedicated to the maintenance and protection of the ecological assets on which true prosperity depends. This will entail investing in the technologies that will reduce the environmental footprint, and in the green economy including renewable energy, as well as in infrastructure and public transport, and in the services that will create an enterprise economy, with jobs.

14. The final economic factor to be rethought is money itself and its complex nature. Most economists failed to predict the 2008 crisis because they did not understand that roughly 90 per cent of money is not created by sovereign States but through credit from commercial banks.

15. This is a dimension of the financial system that at one level is purely speculative, that is, the lending by the financial system to financial institutions to enable them to gamble on asset prices and expand the liquidity of the economy in the hope that it will drive growth forward. The world needs a money system that is anchored in the real economy and that is fit for purpose, delivering investment and enterprise for real human prosperity.

16. To a small extent, this is already happening, for example, through small-scale community lending, which is beginning to deliver some desirable outcomes in terms of improved well-being. Additionally, some mainstream institutional investors are beginning to perceive so-called impact investment as a means of achieving a profound rethinking of the investment architecture. However, money itself is determined at the macroeconomic level. It is not enough to observe heartwarming small-scale examples: we must also look at how the money supply is created, regulated and taxed.

> It is evident that those societies in which inequalities are especially high lead to negative outcomes for both rich and poor, with the widening wealth gap resulting in severe problems of health and social cohesion. It is in those societies where inequality is not so marked that people are happier.
>
> Petra Bayr, National Council of Austria

17. Clearly, and as many participants noted, measuring a country's performance by gross domestic product (GDP) alone gives a very narrow idea of prosperity and human development. Some attempts have been made to measure prosperity in a different way, as evidenced by Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Index, and the Happy Planet Index, which include concepts such as a country's ecological or carbon footprint and people's happiness unrelated to material possessions. The measurement of GDP could also be expanded to include intangibles, for example, the value of the social services provided by a forest versus the one-time income derived from cutting it down to sell the product as fuel.

> Denmark has increased its GDP by about 70 per cent while keeping its energy input more or less constant, through gains in the energy efficiency of industry and housing. If goals are established for changing investment behaviour patterns, such far-reaching changes are possible.
>
> Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

18. "Dematerializing" growth is certainly a key step towards more sustainable economics. However, it is not entirely clear how far this can go. Some improvements are possible, but they are likely not to be sufficient. More resource productivity and better energy efficiency can be achieved, for example, by substituting renewables for fossil fuels (stocks of which in any event will be exhausted in 20-30 years), provided that there is a set of institutions that can

facilitate those changes. However, pursuing the route of dematerialization, with the aim of providing the entire world with a "Western" lifestyle, would require a greater than 100-fold improvement in technical efficiency: a change greater and faster than any ever achieved in human history. Even if this were technically possible, it will not be achievable in the present system. In some way or another, the model must be changed at its core.

19. A new economic model is needed for both developed and developing countries — one that redefines well-being as something based not on consumption but on solidarity and sustainable development. Intrinsic to this should be the application of the principles of equality, inclusion and respect for nature to guiding public policy at all levels and in all areas — economic, social and environmental. As seen in countries such as Ecuador, through a recasting of the role of the State and with the establishment of public policies based on solidarity, growth is still possible, but achievable in a more harmonious manner.

20. Some participants also noted that in many developing countries, the pursuit of growth went hand in hand with deregulation and liberalization of the economy, and ultimately led to levels of indebtedness, that are proving unsustainable. In some cases, this has resulted, over decades, in Governments giving greater priority to paying off a huge debt to foreign multinationals and official lenders than to investing in education, health and the human development of its citizens. The same is true for the policies of austerity that many are pursuing, which are undermining the social fabric and the public sector's capacity to play a proactive role in the management of the economy. In resource-rich countries, in particular, this role may require making sure that resource revenues accrue fairly to the government, and that they are disbursed in areas such as education, health and human development. Nature and other public goods should not be relinquished to the private sector without appropriate legal guarantees that society as a whole will benefit. Embedding the rights of nature directly in a country's constitution may provide a first critical bulwark against overexploitation of resources, consistent with an overall policy on well-being.

21. A model based on the social economy would encompass an image of a human being that is fundamentally different from that based on the narrow understanding of neoclassical economics, which assumes that all individuals are driven exclusively by their own interest. Understanding who we are as people belonging to a society, and not just as individuals, can change the way in which economic relationships work.

22. As many authoritative reports over the years have shown, a turning point in the relationship between economic growth and well-being comes at a national average income level of about US$ 10,000-15,000. In an ideal world, those attaining that level of income would then recalibrate their growth model so that it would cease to grow in terms of *per capita* material consumption, with the emphasis shifting to greater production of public goods and other social assets. However, some doubt was expressed by participants regarding just how such a revolutionary concept would work in the real world. Pursuit of growth is a highly entrenched instinct, given that humans always aspire to make a better life for themselves. While the notion that prosperity is a right, including the possibility of development, is highly appealing, means must be found of achieving such goals. Goals alone are not enough: strategies are needed to pave the way towards them.

23. To be realistic, this new development model has to allow for four other aspects of human nature: power, domination, fear and greed — all of which are best exemplified today by the way in which capital moves around the world. Additionally, most human beings have a short-sighted concern centred around the here and now rather than the future; hence, it is difficult for even the most visionary of politicians to escape such pressure. One wonders how a sustainable development model will deal with those issues, which are so fundamental to human nature and which drive exploitation and consumption, and the manic behaviour at play in the world's stock markets.

> Capital will always move rapidly to where production is cheapest, where resources are easy to obtain, where protection of human rights is low, where repatriation of profits is easy and where there is little or no legislation to prevent damage to the environment.
>
> Senator from Pakistan

24. Even if it is true that existing economics, governed by consumerism fuelled by financial expansion, is fundamentally unstable and headed for a dead end, it will still be necessary to develop a new economic model for sustainability. This will require novel models of institutions, enterprise, investment, money and other inputs — all of which can be adjusted to support a different consciousness of who we are as human beings.

25. Parliamentarians have a key role to play in specifying a common set of sustainable development goals which will define the world in which we want to be living in 15 or 20 years. Parliamentarians have to be the champions, of helping not only to define these goals but to rally the world around them. Parliamentarians need to give assurances to the world that such changes are feasible, because at present people are groping in the dark, talking at cross-purposes. Changing the current discourse about the economy and the associated psychological stresses will involve asking some difficult questions about money and power, how they are interlinked and how they are unfairly distributed in society. A new economics will be possible only if all people can participate in decision-making at both the national and international levels and if vested interests are brought under closer scrutiny by the public at large.

> It is you members of parliament who control the high ground in your countries on policies and legislation. I am pleading with you to really engage and take home and take to heart what is being said here today.
>
> Ambassador Machana Kamau
> Co-chair of the Open Working Group
> of the General Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals

26. At the same time, parliamentarians are in a difficult situation because they are being asked to make decisions that affect people's lives, while dealing with institutions and complexities that are almost impossible to understand and that have been designed to drive economics in a deeply inequitable direction. An example of

this is the whole market for "derivatives", about which most people understand very little. Additionally, parliamentarians on the one hand are faced with major budget constraints and on the other are being asked to pass laws to protect the institutions that led to those shortfalls in the first place. This requires parliamentarians to pay close attention to the financial sector and look for ways to better regulate it. Governments and parliamentarians should be protecting the sovereign power of nations to create a money supply that is appropriate.

27. Parliamentarians have to secure consent to transformation within their constituencies. Faced with change, people tend to huddle around what they already have, reluctant to give anything up without knowing how it will be replaced. An important first step would be to draw up an objective accounting of the outcome of the Millennium Development Goals exercise in order to demonstrate where it has brought gains for individuals and countries. That will open the door to the presentation of a concrete project designed to develop and implement sustainable development goals.

28. A simple but indispensable step that parliamentarians might take to start the move towards sustainability would be enactment of a provision that their country's performance should no longer be measured by GDP alone, as well as establishment of indicators and institutions to monitor well-being in all its dimensions. Another initial step would be to subject corporations to strong environmental, human rights and labour laws and ensure that these are not evaded by moving production to lower-standard countries.

29. There will be resistance to those ideas, as there will be to the whole concept of moving away from the consumerist development model. The status quo has a powerful political, intellectual and academic army behind it, as can be seen in the challenges facing the United Nations as it tries to move ahead with the climate change debate. Meaningful debate will be resisted by vested interests, politicians, businessmen and intellectuals, and by those who wish to keep the status quo for its own sake, not understanding the detrimental impacts of a broken economic system on society as a whole. Education will be very important in overcoming that resistance, particularly when directed at youth. Education can help create an enlightened new generation empowered to transform the system and embrace a new form of development.

Main conclusions

- Sustainable development is not possible under the current economic model based on ever growing consumption. Growth itself needs to be understood more broadly so as to include the growth of the individual and of society, with human well-being as its end goal.
- The green economy and various efforts aimed at dematerialization are necessary but insufficient steps to place the world on a sustainable course. A more fundamental shift will occur if policies are redirected towards well-being and not growth for growth's sake. A truly green economy will need to be much less reliant on consumerism as a driver of growth and purveyor of well-being.
- In countries below a certain income level, economic growth is still needed both to raise material prosperity and for the intangible benefits it brings.

However, these countries can already begin to change course along with the developed countries by rethinking the purpose and uses of investments, money and enterprises from a more socially oriented perspective. An economics of financial and fiscal stability will have to underpin this effort at both national and global levels.

- To ease the shift to a new economics of well-being, new indicators in addition to GDP will be needed, going beyond material income to encompass other less tangible elements such as contentment and a sense of harmony. Such a change will require a significant change in people's attitudes, a change that parliamentarians are well placed to bring about.

Session II: Gender as a linchpin of development: how to frame a new goal?

30. The United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union have a long history of engagement to advance women's empowerment and women's rights, including by working together in support of the Millennium Development Goals. Yet, the gender-related Millennium Development Goals, primarily in the areas of education and health, did not tackle the structural causes of gender inequality, such as violence against women, unpaid care work, limited control over assets and unequal participation in decision-making. Similarly, progress in other Millennium Development Goals did not necessarily lead to gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment.

31. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) is calling for a comprehensive stand-alone goal on gender equality, with a variety of targets and indicators, to go well beyond the purview of the original Millennium Development Goals. These would commit national Governments to implementing proactive policies to break down the underlying structures of discrimination and ensure robust monitoring of progress and accountability for outcomes that directly benefit women. Much of the ensuing discussion among participants revolved around the proposed new goal and its various elements.

32. In the view of UN-Women, a stand-alone goal is needed for four reasons. First, it is needed to pursue the considerable amount of unfinished business in terms of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly around Goal 5 on improving maternal health. Second, it is needed to directly address the structural discriminatory constraints on equality in general as they affect women's empowerment and women's rights. The third relates to the investment in gender equality, as through girls' education, which is well known to be one of the best investments that a country can make for its own development. Fourth, a stand-alone goal is needed in order to focus policy action, parliaments and societies on truly addressing the underlying constraints.

33. The majority of participants agreed that a stand-alone goal is needed first and foremost in order to ensure political commitment to the advancement of women. If women's issues were only spread across several sustainable development goals, that focus would be lacking. A specific goal is perfectly compatible with gender mainstreaming, to which countries are already committed on the basis of the

conventions and other instruments that they have signed and ratified. The stand-alone goal is needed to sharpen the focus on a set of issues that need to be addressed in the most varied areas.

34. Another reason for establishing a stand-alone goal is to mobilize political will, which will in turn mobilize resources, thus helping to reverse the trend of chronic underfunding of gender-related policies. This is no simple matter in the current post-crisis time of global austerity, which has disproportionately impacted women. In many countries, in times of financial austerity, cuts are made first in the public sector, where women are largely employed. In addition, women around the world are often in vulnerable employment, lacking proper social protection, which is also cut in difficult financial times. Between 2011 and 2012-2013, the amount of official development assistance (ODA) invested in women's issues and gender equality dropped by 20 per cent. Furthermore, in countries embroiled in conflict, money that might have been invested in women's empowerment is being spent instead to fight terrorism and hostilities. While a stand-alone goal would be able to focus on funding, there is still a long way to go towards turning the situation around, despite ample evidence showing that investment in women's empowerment yields huge economic returns.

35. A contrary view that some participants expressed was that a stand-alone goal was not needed, because women's issues will inevitably touch on all aspects of a sustainable development agenda. Women make up 50 per cent of the world's population. The face of poverty is more likely to be female than male. Hence, for the sustainable development agenda to be about people, women's issues and gender issues have to be cross-cutting. From this perspective, having a stand-alone goal risks isolating gender issues from the broader development agenda. Some participants felt that it was too early to be considering a stand-alone goal, as there is not yet agreement on what it should focus. It would be preferable to integrate gender goals across the development spectrum. For example, consensus seems to be crystallizing on some goals in the area of health, which would definitely be one of the areas where women's issues can be addressed. Issues of education can also be considered as part of the unfinished agenda of the Millennium Development Goals, and targets can be built pertaining specifically to women and/or girls. The same could be said about questions relating to participation in decision-making.

36. Another view was that there should indeed be a stand-alone goal among the new sustainable development goals which would deal essentially with violence against women, but that gender equality should be a cross-cutting component of all aspects of development. Violence against women, too, should be considered a cross-cutting issue and not merely a women's problem. In fact, it is a problem for society as a whole on its path to development. Mainstreaming gender throughout the sustainable development goals and development policy in general is another way to nurture harmony between the sexes, which in turn supports harmony between cultures and with nature. The pursuit of harmony in society is consistent with the pursuit of well-being, and should not be seen as secondary to economic growth.

37. It was observed that the most successful Millennium Development Goals have been the relatively uncontroversial ones: there is wide consensus that poverty must be reduced and that girls should be educated. Whether there is wide consensus that real gender equality is desirable is more doubtful. A strong gender-specific goal will help affirm that commitment in no uncertain terms. In fact, many participants felt

that a broad political consensus does exist on gender equality. They pointed to the United Nations agreements adopted, e.g., the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[a] and similar instruments. However, there is certainly work to be done in dealing with some of the cultural issues and stereotypes generated in society, some of which have deep historical roots. The advances made at the policy and legislative levels have in many cases not dealt with the underlying cultural and other factors.

38. Some delegates asked whether there is now a general sense that, after several years when it seemed as if women's rights were surging forward in the global agenda and, when there was much excitement centred around the series of related global conferences, progress has stalled. In some thematic areas such as those considered in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and, in the Beijing Platform for Action,[b] it seems that countries have actually stagnated or have maybe even retreated. If there is general agreement that such a situation obtains, is there a way to regain momentum? It was suggested that in the case of discussions in forums where gender is the/or a main issue, such as the Commission on the Status of Women and the Third Committee of the General Assembly, there is a good level of enthusiasm and commitment. The problem arises in other, less directly related forums, and in discussions of other issues that appear less directly related to women. Such situations show a need for more gender awareness on the part of experts and delegates of Member States and a greater commitment to mainstreaming gender.

39. Gender equality of course is an issue involving both men and women, and needs therefore to be addressed across the board. This will involve convincing men that gender equality would not entail a loss for them, but a gain for society as a whole. Men need to be sensitized to the particular concerns of women and to be included in crafting the solutions that will take those needs into account. Violence against women, for example, will not be eliminated unless it is addressed jointly by men and women, because of the role of men in perpetrating it. Indeed, the support of men may be vital to the advancement of women. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for example, the various structural and regulatory changes to that end would not have been possible without the support of male politicians.

40. A related issue is how men are faring in society. Part of the task of those working on gender issues will be to look also at how men are dealing, for example, with situations in which more university graduates are female rather than male and more women are competing for jobs traditionally held by males. Policies for gender equality may not always result in a win-win scenario for both men and women. When this occurs, it needs to be acknowledged and appropriate action taken to help men cope and find a solution to their predicament.

41. In a situation of pure equality, women will compete head to head with men for whatever they are seeking, and given finite resources and a finite number of jobs, men may well end up with less than they were used to in the past. It has to be recognized, however, that men will strongly resist any perceived loss of power or possessions. A less contentious approach may be one of "complementarity", entailing women's taking their place alongside men, on equal terms, but not

[a] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[b] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

venturing into men's territory. Most participants considered that the correct approach is to strive for true equality, while a minority suggested that in societies of great cultural and economic diversity, complementarity helps in achieving goals of harmony, through a celebration of people's differences.

42. A more fundamental question discussed was whether the needs of women across the world, who live in such varied cultural contexts, can really be generalized, and whether it is possible to craft goals and targets that are as applicable to women in the countries that stand out in terms of gender equality, as they are to countries that are much more unequal. Participants suggested, however, that most gender goals are universal. All countries have women, with issues that are applicable more or less across the board, to varying degrees — for example, elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, women's participation in political decision-making, access to economic activities such as property and inheritance rights, and sexual and reproductive rights and reproductive health. All of those issues are common to all countries to some degree or another. If these elements were incorporated into a stand-alone goal, they could be made globally applicable.

43. At the same time, caution was expressed about regarding all societies as homogeneous. The image and the standing of women, for example, vary from country to country and from region to region. Therefore, Governments will always need some latitude in terms of how they go about implementing a universal gender goal.

> The challenge we have is to choose and prioritize targets that will really mean a fundamental change in women's lives.
>
> John Hendra
> Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme, UN-Women

44. One of the problems associated with the Millennium Development Goals is that they did not comprehensively cover violence against women, largely because of the perceived difficulty of properly measuring and benchmarking this issue. There is much more to be done. Violence against women includes not only sexual violence and rape, but also trafficking, sexual slavery and prostitution. As long as there are still men who think they can buy a woman because she is poor, the world has far to go before genuine equality is achieved. International bodies should make clear-cut declarations in respect of these crimes, as should parliaments, and with the full force of the law.

> In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, if any region suffers inordinately high levels of violence against women, it can declare an emergency, comparable to a natural disaster. This releases intensive resources to attack the problem until it is brought under control.
>
> Gabriela Montaño
> President of the Senate, Plurinational State of Bolivia

45. Work on violence against women should also encompass the prevention aspect. There is a great deal of evidence indicating that the greater the number of women judges, and the greater number of women in the police forces, the lower the level of violence against women. It will also be very important to examine the root causes of violence, which may include socioeconomic status and poverty, alcohol and drugs; in the case of sexual violence, however, they are associated overwhelmingly with a sense of men's sexual entitlement, and impunity.

46. If there is consensus that violence against women should be a significant part of any stand-alone gender goal, and given the past difficulty in measuring or tracking it, there will be a need to define targets as well as indicators to measure progress. This should be based on best practices emanating from a variety of different societies.

47. Indeed, indicators are needed in all aspects of women's empowerment, and the efforts of UN-Women and other bodies are to be welcomed. The commitment of countries to advancing the women's agenda can be measured by the extent to which they adopt and use such indicators. For example, increases in women's access to credit or landownership are easy to measure. Countries need to reach consensus not only on objectives but also on the indicators that will make it possible to track progress.

48. The Millennium Development Goals did not contain a specific reproductive health and rights target, although it was embedded within other targets. This raises the question how reproductive health and rights will be handled in the context of a new set of sustainable development goals. As an absolutely crucial component of women's well-being, sexual and reproductive health and rights would have to be not only part of a stand-alone goal, but, at the same time, also part and parcel of a cross-cutting approach, notably through their inclusion in any goal on health. Those rights are seen as a fundamental part of ensuring women's access to and control over resources, giving them all relevant options concerning how they choose to live their lives. Clearly, this issue is politically sensitive in some parts of the world; however, it is fundamental to the realization of women's human rights and to gender equality.

49. One question to be considered is whether representation — the number of women in parliament — should be part of a stand-alone goal in order to encourage the accession of greater numbers of women to membership in parliament. There is strong evidence that where women parliamentarians are more numerous, more attention is paid to issues of concern to women, including contraception, the right to abortion, education, health, violence and vocational training.

50. The hearing examined, from a practical perspective, areas of the sustainable development goals architecture where gender concerns have been ignored, and where development has fallen short because the gender component has been ignored. For example, while it is true that advances — and in some countries very large advances — have been made at the parliamentary level, women are still underrepresented at the local and municipal levels. Similarly, there is still a "glass ceiling" to women's advancement: international organizations tend not to appoint women to the highest levels, and men still dominate in the senior echelons in finance, banking and business.

51. The question was raised why, when women account for about half of the electorate, and a good number of them are on the ballot, disproportionate numbers

of men are still elected. It was obvious that women voters do not necessarily vote for women. Where that was the case, it was partly the duty of open-minded men to overcome women's reluctance to vote for other women. Some disagreed with the basic premise, citing examples to the contrary from their country's experience.

52. In general, there was a level of frustration among participants — men as well as women — about the gap between the high-flown language on women's rights issues and on-the-ground implementation, and between the enthusiastic consensus in meetings such as the present one and the obstacles encountered in the wider world. This is where parliamentarians have a critical role to play, which is to enact legislation and monitor its implementation. On the face of it, this seems a fairly simple way of translating obligations into practice, but of course political will needs to be present, and it is in this area, unfortunately, that progress seems to be encountering obstacles.

53. While countries are working on the post-2015 development agenda, i.e., the sustainable development goals, they should not forget the obligations that are already on the table, which are still binding. One issue is thus how the new goals can facilitate implementation of commitments that have already been made or offset what is lacking in terms of the implementation of those obligations.

54. Whether in the end the United Nations will establish a stand-alone goal or take a cross-cutting approach, or both, there are still many issues that will have to be covered in addition to violence, health and participation in decision-making. For example, there is the question of helping working women balance the disparate claims of professional advancement and their responsibilities in the home. Another issue yet to be resolved is that of equal pay for equal work. All of these issues will need to be based on objective and realistic data and indicators disaggregated by sex, income and by other factors, and every effort must be made to ensure that they are truly integrated into all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, environmental and social.

55. The gender component of the new sustainable development goals, however configured, will truly advance only if root causes of inequality and discrimination are addressed, including power relations and patterns of socialization. Changing some of the more traditional attitudes and rethinking the concept of masculinity will also be crucial. It will be necessary for the sustainable development goals, like the Millennium Development Goals, to be easy to articulate so as to enable them to quickly gain traction, attracting the attention of policymakers and the public at large.

Main conclusions

- In the context of the new sustainable development goals, gender equality would be best advanced as a stand-alone goal, which would focus the attention of populations and Governments on the urgency of gender equality in its own right, and not just as an enabler of development. Establishing this goal would also help complete the unfinished work of the Millennium Development Goals.
- At the same time, gender considerations need to be disseminated across the whole range of development goals so as to eliminate the risk of isolating

gender from other development issues: gender mainstreaming is good for women and for the development agenda as a whole.

- Development work on gender equality and women's empowerment must be based on a human rights approach. The use of sex-disaggregated data, much of which needs to be collected more proactively, should supplement this approach. Violence against women, in particular, should head the list of issues to be tackled within the context of a new gender goal.

- Difficulties will arise in making progress on these issues, owing to the cultural differences in respect of the standing and view of women in various countries. However, women's issues and concerns, such as violence and sexual and reproductive health, are universal. The post-2015 development agenda in this area must be based on the commitments arising out of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, filling the gaps in those previous commitments.

Session III: Democratic governance for sustainable development: what place among the new goals?

> We are calling for a fundamental shift — to recognize peace and good governance as core elements of well-being, not an optional extra.
>
> Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

56. A key message of the Quito communiqué was that democratic governance is both an end and a means to sustainable development and that, as such, it ought to feature strongly among the new sustainable development goals as a stand-alone goal. Furthermore, and in line with the focus of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the parliamentarians meeting in Quito recognized the interrelationship between democratic governance and well-being. The discussion was designed to further flesh out key elements of democratic governance and its linkages to sustainable development. It also offered an opportunity to underscore the importance of democratic governance as a more comprehensive concept than governance alone.

57. As several participants noted, democratic governance depends on more than just effective Governments which can provide quality services to their people. The concept has its basis in the question of legitimacy of those who govern and their decisions, which in turn comes from trust in politics and public institutions. Democracy and well-functioning institutions depend on elections that are free and fair, with the engagement of political parties in a context of media freedom.

58. Equally important is that people feel that it is relevant to go to the polls, seek quality of government and ask for accountability and legitimacy. Parliaments have a very important role to play in communicating what voters want from government, the judiciary, the media and the political parties, as representatives of the people. This means that parliamentarians have to think about how they can lead, prioritize, organize and be held to account in a world where people expect them to do more rather than less.

> Politics is not only for solving problems, it's also for grasping opportunities.
>
> Gunilla Carlsson
> Former member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel,
> Former Minister of Development Cooperation of Sweden

59. The present-day broad access to information means that citizens have higher expectations: not only of basic human rights, but also of the right to participate, at both the national and global levels. Many participants spoke to the difficulty in managing these expectations. Globalization and digitalization have inevitably brought us together, so that in many countries and regions, people are today discussing the same issues. We know, too, that the existing multilateral system is not delivering the results needed in a world that is truly globalized. For several participants, the expanding influence of transnational corporations as global economic actors calls for greater global political governance able to tackle issues such as injustice, poverty and unsustainability — which are common to almost every country in the world.

60. The post-Millennium Development Goals process must aim at ending poverty in our time, but this aim must be achieved in acknowledgement of the fact that our resources are finite and ever dwindling. The work of poverty elimination in a context of sustainability cannot be conducted outside a framework of democratic governance, and without institutions that are able to deliver effective policy solutions. Virtually all comments from participants supported the view that democratic governance is vital for long-lasting, equitable and sustainable economic development. It must be a cross-cutting component of all post-2015 goals. Some of its key elements will include parliamentary oversight consistent with the division of powers between branches of government, effective protection of rights of vulnerable segments of society, genuine rights to information, enhanced professionalism and accountability of the security forces, and an independent judicial system affordable by all. It must also include a process of ongoing review and improvement of the services provided by government, such as health, education and justice, and investment in the infrastructure of the country.

> There has been too artificial a line between national and international; in today's world the global problems are also national and even local.
>
> Jan Eliasson
> Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

61. If Governments are to deal with the problems at home, they need to be open to the outside world, and take the international dimension into account. Here, parliaments have a crucially important role to play in explaining to their constituents that while there may be problems in their country, the country cannot solve them alone, without taking into account the reality beyond their borders — without eliminating that false line between the national and the international.

> We recently had a vote in which people were to decide whether they should henceforth have six weeks of vacation per year. Who in the world would be against more vacation ... but the Swiss voted against it. More vacation was very appealing, but the voters concluded that it would not be a responsible decision in terms of the national interest.
>
> Paul Seger
> Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

62. Underpinning democratic governance must be a very strong sense of ownership of the country, derived from active participation but also from a well-informed citizenry. In this way, people feel that they have a stake in the whole society. There is a strong link between people's responsibility for the common good and democracy, which parliamentarians must help nurture: a healthy democracy would normally see people make decisions with the best interest of their community or country in mind. Examples of this can be found in countries as different in levels of development and political culture as Switzerland and Costa Rica.

> When Costa Rica became independent, it established a strong commitment to education. There was also a firm belief in solidarity, which enabled social security reforms, including establishment of a labour code and the national health system. The country has a very dynamic electoral system that is legitimate in the eyes of the populace, a judicial system with a high degree of independence and honesty, and a constitution providing safeguards for the individual and social rights of people.
>
> Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri
> Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations

63. Several interventions pointed out that a key variable in the politics of certain countries is corruption, which is one of the main factors eroding democratic governance and people's trust in institutions. Corruption scandals shake the very foundations of a country's institutions, jeopardizing their credibility and that of the political system. On the other hand, success in sentencing corrupt officials to jail will in fact raise the credibility of the judicial system.

> Four military dictators have seized power in Pakistan and all have been defeated by massive popular movements. Each dictatorial era has ended with the restoration of democracy, while all the mass movements of resistance to autocracy have been completely non-violent.
>
> Senator Aitzaz Ahsan
> Pakistan

64. The post-2015 development agenda should be developed on the basis of a people-centred approach. It should encompass human rights parameters, cutting across social, economic and environmental dimensions. Democratic governance should be based on the key elements of participation, transparency and accountability, and should lead to positive outcomes for development such as a

shrinking of inequalities. The chaos reigning in many aspects of life in our communities today is due to a lack of proper leadership in our system of government. Another problem is the erosion of safety nets and other public goods which, beyond their immediate utility, also help generate a common bond among the people as well as a sense of citizenship. Universal health care accessible to all, for example, can have the supplementary benefits of contributing to a better distribution of wealth while enabling people to participate more actively in the political process.

> True leaders are concerned with making history, not money.
>
> Parliamentarian from Suriname

65. Democracy should in essence be participatory, but, in many instances, it is distorted by self-centredness and greed, tempting leaders to stray from the interests of their communities. Because of this, the global family lacks basic values such as solidarity and social service. Parliamentarians must be champions of bringing these values back into politics.

66. Trust in government, political stability and accountability are deeply intertwined and are key determinants of democratic governance. If political, economic or social stability are absent from a country, governance becomes commensurately harder. Meanwhile, if, generally, there is no trust in government and its institutions, one overriding reason may be their failure to provide the services for which they are responsible. For a political system to be trusted, it has to be accountable. Accountability to a great extent arises out of a transparent society with vibrant public opinion and free media, and with people able to access the resources that will empower them to denounce what they consider to be wrong.

67. Several interventions noted that it is not only on the national level that accountability and trust are needed, but also internationally. One factor hindering trust between nations is a new trend towards nationalism, sometimes spilling over into xenophobia, and heightened appeals to the concept of sovereignty. This kind of backlash may arise from what are considered to be the negative effects of globalization, which, if this is the case, makes it difficult for States to reach out to each other and make the compromises that are necessary to finding global solutions.

68. A further difficulty is the impact of money on politics. Politicians who are swayed by special commercial interests and parliamentarians who are elected because poor people have been bribed to vote a certain way do not have the legitimacy to combat corruption. One partial remedy, found in certain constitutions, is the funding of political campaigns and elections exclusively by the State, with outside contributions banned.

69. Where the government is not accountable or completely mistrusted, it becomes very difficult to convince people that they should participate in elections, which leads to a crisis of democracy. However, even some countries that are genuinely democratic are seeing voter fatigue, with dwindling participation levels and a lack of political interest. This may be for either of two totally opposed reasons: either people have given up hope that an elected government will change their lives for the better, or alternatively, they have grown complacent that the government has everything under control and will continue to deliver the same levels of prosperity and security.

70. Of particular concern for many participants was the absence of youth from the electoral process. Generally, political activity is in the hands of the middle-aged and older generations, which will not be around to see the impact of their decisions or lack thereof today. Youth must be brought in to gather the experience that they will need when they ultimately take over. Young people face a huge distraction from civic duty: involvement in social media and similar self-centred pursuits, which claim a large expenditure of time; but these should not be an alternative to democratic participation. Young people's vision and passion must be harnessed in the service of democratic change.

71. Ideas abound on enhancing governance. One is that all newborns, throughout the world, should be issued a birth certificate, a document attesting to their existence and thus to their right to go to school, to receive health care, to vote and to open a bank account. Another is simply to reduce the voting age, so as to draw young people into the democratic system before they can grow weary of it.

72. In an effort to strengthen democratic governance, some countries have experimented with decentralizing government from the capital to some other level like the provincial or the regional. This may provide opportunities for those in power to be closer to their constituents' concerns, although some participants cautioned that the change has to be made with care, so as to prevent simple replication of instances of bad centralized governance at lower levels.

73. A citizen participatory budget process such as exists in the Republic of Korea gives people the opportunity, through public hearings and Internet surveys, to express views on all budget issues at the local government level. Similar mechanisms can be established to enable citizens to express their views on each new project that the government proposes to undertake and on how they will be impacted by the project. Devolution to local authorities can also have a positive impact on growth, trade and employment, as has been seen in Brazil.

74. Sound laws relating to communications media, information and freedom of speech are also a critical component of governance. Parliaments have to enact laws on access to public information that truly oblige State institutions to be both accountable and open to the demands of the population in that area. Far from seeking to regulate and control the media, they should ensure that they are as independent of outside influence as possible, while at the same time making provisions for ensuring responsible reporting. In a democratic society, those in power have to be open to criticism, which is part of the function of the communications media.

75. While there is clearly a groundswell of support for democratic governance from politicians around the world, some delegates expressed concern about some reluctance at the United Nations to include governance in the development agenda. However, that resistance is not widespread; there are many countries that favour the inclusion of democratic governance either as a sustainable development goal or as a condition underlying many of the specific goals that will emerge. Those Member States that are sceptical about the concept of democratic governance base their thinking on two considerations. First, some of them feel that the inclusion of such a goal might open the door to intervention in their national sovereignty. Second, many countries remain uncomfortable with the idea of subjecting themselves to a constant process of accountability both to their own populations and to the international community.

76. To overcome those concerns, a number of Member States must be convinced that democratic governance will ultimately work in their favour, as it builds trust and political stability. The United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000[c] makes specific mention of the importance of good governance in achieving the various Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, the role of good governance as a facilitator and an enabler of development goals has already been recognized. Perhaps the reason why democratic governance was not made a goal in itself in 2000 was because the world did not feel comfortable with the concept and had doubts about how — if at all — it could be monitored. However, over the years, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in particular, has developed some expertise and tools which will enable some tracking of progress with regard to democratic governance.

Main conclusions

- A specific goal on democratic governance for inclusion among the future sustainable development goals would improve government decisions on sustainable development while also affirming the centrality of democratic governance principles as key aspects of well-being. Parliaments should be encouraged to adopt resolutions or motions in support of such a goal and as a way of bringing their weight to bear in the current debate about the sustainable development goals.
- Democratic governance is fundamental to earning citizens' trust in the government and its institutions. One of the factors most corrosive to trust is corruption.
- Free and fair elections are a primary building block of any system of democratic governance. It is essential to maintain or enhance voter participation, particularly among young people, thus building trust.
- With the corporate private sector now global in scope, stronger political governance at the global level is also needed to tackle the issues that are not being addressed, such as injustice, poverty and unsustainable growth.
- Democratic governance can be enhanced in many ways, including by ensuring that elections are untainted by donations from special interests, by providing for innovative consultative mechanisms and by ensuring an unfettered media environment.
- Democratic governance has in the past been considered difficult to measure. However, several new approaches have been developed in recent years, including by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to help define and track progress. Progress on this front should make it easier for a stand-alone goal to be defined.

[c] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

Session IV: Parliaments and the new post-2015 agenda: getting ready for implementation

> Implementation of the internationally agreed development goals brings parliaments centre stage. They can play a pivotal role in promoting greater national ownership of development strategies and programmes, in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals. The role of parliaments in implementation is multi-pronged, contributing to the process in many different ways.
>
> Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury
> Speaker of Parliament, Bangladesh

77. Drawing lessons from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the role that parliaments have been able to play thus far, this session discussed how parliaments can begin to prepare for a new set of sustainable development goals as constituting a universal agenda engaging both developed and developing countries.

78. The race to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is not over: there are still two years to go, and with the Goals now high in the agenda in numerous countries around the world, the opportunities are manifold for achieving as much as possible between now and December 2015. Parliamentarians and Governments need to make serious plans with respect to how they are going to use this time. In the health sector, for instance, while some countries have succeeded in lowering HIV prevalence, others have not. Similarly, some countries have succeeded in the fight against tuberculosis, while others have not. Learning the lessons from these successes or failures will be a major task in the next two years.

79. The reasons for inadequate progress on the Millennium Development Goals are many, including some climate change-related disasters, outbreaks of conflict, a failure by some of the wealthier countries to live up to their commitment of allocating 0.7 per cent of GDP to ODA, priority not given in many countries to the Millennium Development Goals and a skewed budget allocation to military expenditures rather than to development. However, one overriding factor is that awareness of the Millennium Development Goals among parliamentarians in some countries did not really take hold until about one third of the way through their 15-year time frame. Consequently, regular monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals process got fully under way relatively late in the process. If it had been undertaken much earlier, the results by now would be better. To avoid falling into the same traps with the sustainable development goals, parliamentarians need to be aware of them from the very start, and to be prepared to monitor their implementation. Indeed, knowledge of the sustainable development goals within parliaments as institutions is necessary, since individual parliamentarians come and go with every election.

80. Parliaments can pinpoint the weaknesses in implementation and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, delving into the root causes so as to ensure better alignment with national priorities. Fostering close ties with government is critical, because it is only through this interaction that the priorities that are so important at the national level, reflecting the aspirations of the people, can actually

be brought into the process. Policy harmonization, coordination and mutual accountability can all be promoted by parliaments, which constitute the forum for facilitating debate on all development issues. As peoples' representatives, parliamentarians can bring to the floor the vital issues that affect the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalized. They can thus play a vital role in drawing up informed development plans on the basis of the real priorities.

81. On the positive side, it should also be recognized that had it not been for the Millennium Development Goals, the world would not have entered into a unique global partnership that has created a common currency across Governments, in the North and South, and with other stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector. Nor would the world have seen such a scaling up of efforts in the fields of education, health, and safe water supplies, among many others. Indeed, many developing countries will have achieved some or most of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 — not all countries, and not all the Millennium Development Goals, but enough to have transformed the development landscape. The challenge going forward is how to complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, in addition to crafting a more expanded agenda that combines poverty eradication with sustainable development.

82. Another task for parliamentarians relates to shaping the new global development agenda, so that it is commensurate with the level of ambition required to take on the major primary needs of our time. As the result of an unprecedented effort by the United Nations to obtain the views of people all over the world, more than a million voices have already been heard, and the loud and clear message was not only to put poverty eradication and sustainable development at the centre of the agenda but also to bring issues into it that were not sufficiently addressed by the Millennium Development Goals, including democratic governance, peace and freedom from fear and violence, and prospects for employment, particularly for youth.

83. While the United Nations has seen very strong engagement by parliaments at the national level, this needs to be deepened further. The pressure needs to be kept up in order to counter the temptation to lower ambition, dodge the difficult issues or go for lowest common denominators, which otherwise will start to seep into the negotiations among Member States. Furthermore, to make sustainable development work, a new way of working for Governments all over the world is needed, namely, through better integrating the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development in all policy areas and sectors. Parliaments can play a crucial role in forcing that integration, by ensuring that decisions laws and budgets truly take into consideration the three dimensions.

> We realize that robust accountability will be central to effective and timely realization of sustainable development goals. You have a particularly important role to play in this regard.
>
> Ambassador Néstor Osorio
> President of the Economic and Social Council

84. Development goals have often been set at the United Nations with a top-down or sectoral approach, treating issues in a fragmented manner. However,

parliamentarians can reshape them within the context of a bottom-up process, by bringing in the grass-roots stakeholders, thereby addressing one of the weaknesses of the Millennium Development Goals process and at the same time laying the groundwork for a more effective set of sustainable development goals.

85. Regarding implementation, an important aspect is national ownership of the sustainable development goals, which has to be achieved through the mandated representatives of the people. This is especially true in consideration of the current global agenda, with a time span from 10 to 15-20 years. The executive branch has a very short-term vision, based on what needs to be done over a five- or four-year term, whereas parliamentarians can add value by taking a longer perspective. Another area where parliamentarians can add value is that of the quality of outcomes. There are discrepancies and inequalities within countries, which only parliamentarians can point out. Outcomes should not be measured in terms simply of how many students are enrolled in schools, or how many hospital beds are available: equally important is the quality of education in the schools and or the quality of health care in the hospitals.

86. On implementation, parliamentarians can play a further crucial role in the integration of sustainable development both vertically among local or provincial assemblies and national assemblies and horizontally among regions or provinces. There should be coordination at all levels, not only locally, regionally and globally, but also at the corporate level and with the United Nations. Within parliament proper, coordination, possibly through a dedicated structure, is needed to facilitate overall monitoring and institutionalization of the new agenda. One obstacle to integration and coordination is a lack of data, making it difficult for countries and regions to monitor or calculate where they stand vis-à-vis the various development goals. Methods for collecting and interpreting data need to be harmonized, with uniform information management systems in place to eliminate the problems of information shortage which plagued the early efforts of the Millennium Development Goals process.

87. Some countries have, at differing levels, information-gathering systems that not only measure GDP but also incorporate alternative indicators such as education, health, well-being and happiness. As was discussed earlier in the hearing, the fact that economic growth does not necessarily translate into the well-being or prosperity that is the ultimate objective of development makes other components of sustainable development all the more important, such as how to halt the widening gap between rich and poor, prevent discrimination and create social cohesion and inclusion. Countries also have plans to expand that more comprehensive type of measurement system to different political and administrative levels. These systems will be important in determining what resources are genuinely needed both to finish the Millennium Development Goals process and to start off the pursuit of the sustainable development goals.

88. The budget is an essential tool for attaining any development goal, and it is part of parliament's duty to scrutinize what resources are being allocated to that end, and whether they are being correctly used. If parliamentarians lack the expertise to monitor and analyse budgets, they should pursue opportunities to obtain such expertise or seek guidance from more experienced colleagues. Various countries have established budget monitoring frameworks to assist parliamentarians in this task. A related task is to convince the public and the government that it is necessary

for the country to have a budget for pursuing development goals. This is not an easy message to convey in times of financial crisis and austerity. An early victim of such times is the international aid budget, making it all the more urgent to convey the message that the crisis has not lessened the needs of the recipient countries.

> Control of the public purse gives parliaments tremendous power to affect development outcomes. In Uganda, for example, the Parliament repeatedly pointed out to the Government that with the inadequate funding allocated to the health sector, the country would never achieve MDGs 4 and 5. In the fifth year of this confrontation, Parliament decided that enough was enough, and refused to pass the budget. The result was a stand-off that lasted for three weeks, after which the Government withdrew the budget and presented a new one with a huge increase for the health area.
>
> Anders B. Johnsson
> Secretary-General, Inter-Parliamentary Union

89. Achieving the various development goals will take additional resources. Indeed, some delegates even pointed out that it was partly their countries' dependence on foreign aid that had impeded the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Much more important is to ensure that Governments mobilize their own resources for development. One initiative on the European level has been to levy a tax on transnational financial transactions and to use the proceeds for development purposes. So far 12 of the 28 European Union member States have signed on to the scheme, while efforts are being made to convince other countries to adopt it, too. Other suggestions have been to introduce measures to combat illicit flows of money and international fraud, appropriating the proceeds for international aid, and to appeal to the oil-producing nations to help their less fortunate neighbours in the developing world.

90. Whereas the Millennium Development Goals were designed to benefit countries in development, the new sustainable development agenda will apply to all countries, both developing and developed. It is perhaps not abundantly clear in the developed world that the North is no longer just a "donor", but very much an actor and a partner in development cooperation. To cite just one difference from the past, this means that where the developed countries are providing assistance, they should no longer be imposing conditionalities in a peremptory or paternalistic manner. Rather, where they see areas in developing countries that need to be upgraded, such as those related to human rights or women's empowerment, they should be offering assistance to do so in a spirit of dialogue and partnership.

91. Parliamentarians should be conveying the message that the noble goals of human development have not yet been fulfilled. There is still poverty in the world, not every child can go to school, and there is a long way to go towards the achieving of women's empowerment, among many deficits. The message should also be that the whole question of sustainable development does not concern only the developing countries, but is also highly relevant to the developed ones, the wealthiest of which still experience problems of poverty, hunger and homelessness. Along the same lines, the question of sustainability concerns the whole world, as is best illustrated by climate change, biodiversity loss and other pressing

environmental challenges. It is very important that parliamentarians also make their electorates aware of the motives underlying the pursuit of these development goals, which can be a surprisingly difficult task in the wealthy countries.

> It's very difficult to talk about children in need of education, in a society where every child goes to school as a matter of course. It is not easy to advocate for the empowerment of women, in a society where all women think they are emancipated. But it is the duty as a parliamentarian to raise awareness of a world outside the borders of one's own prosperous country.
>
> Senator Fauzaya Talhaoui
> Belgium

92. Implementing the new goals will require a more inclusive dialogue between parliaments and civil society. The trade unions, the environmental movement, the women's movement and, in fact, the whole of civil society will need to support parliamentarians in their interaction with public opinion and the government. However, it is perhaps even more important that parliamentarians call upon civil society for that support, by making its members aware of what the country is trying to do, and why. To this end, almost everywhere, parliamentary debates will need to be more open and accessible to the public.

93. A relatively new aspect is the role of social media in parliamentary activities. Increasingly, parliamentarians are using social media to send information about their work to their myriad contacts, reaching far more people than they would using traditional methods. The use of modern communications media should be a two-way street: some countries have made provisions whereby citizens have the right to participate in the legislative process, by providing suggestions, opinions, criticism and alternative proposals. The experiment has been a huge step forward for political inclusion.

94. With so much work to be contemplated, some parliaments have already established working groups and task forces on the sustainable development goals. The intention is to be ready to move much faster than was the case with the Millennium Development Goals.

95. Many suggestions were made in the hearing on what areas the future development goals should cover. The need was stressed for goals on stability, energy supplies and persons with disabilities. Security issues should also be considered. How can any development be ensured when many developing countries are faced with recurrent military crises leading to unimaginable humanitarian catastrophes? Armed conflict, it was noted, can also open the door to the illegal exploitation of natural resources by foreign multinationals.

96. The need to deal with a perilous security situation deprives legitimate Governments of the resources needed to finance development activities such as building decent hospitals and effective schools, improving the life of the population and creating sustainable employment, as the jobs created through illegal exploitation are but ephemeral.

97. What gives us hope for the future is that, whereas the Millennium Development Goals were developed behind closed doors by technocrats gathered at the United Nations, the post-2015 development agenda is being widely and openly negotiated and discussed, and is emerging through a process of consensus-building around the world. It is true that large-scale awareness-raising has to be undertaken, but the world is in a much better position to embark on the new development adventure than it was in 2001.

98. The essence of the goals of the post-2015 development agenda is to find a safe operating space where all countries can pursue prosperity for all while both respecting the planetary boundaries and comprehensively meeting basic human needs and fulfilling human rights. Knowledge and innovation can take us a long way down that road, but the problem today is that too much of innovation is in areas where it can only make the problems worse. Humankind is finding innovative ways to extract more resources ever more rapidly and deplete the ecosystems even more thoroughly than before. It is only if we can prioritize the kind of innovation that will actually solve our problems that innovation will become a friend of humanity for the future, and not just a means of making profits.

99. The biggest challenge facing the post-2015 development agenda will therefore be to transform a mindset at the national level that is geared towards the maximization of national advantages at the expense of others. Admittedly, this approach has worked quite well so far for many countries. However, humankind has reached the point where this way of looking at the world is at odds with the fact of rapidly rising shared vulnerability, unmet human needs and unsustainable consumption patterns. Only when political leaders, members of parliament and the public at large make the required cognitive shift, from a mindset of grasping at the national advantage in the short term to one of global collaboration to solve shared challenges, to deal with vulnerability, and thereby actually to advance national interest, will this agenda work.

> If we come up with a post-2015 agenda that has appealing and praiseworthy goals, but the mindset stays the same, the problems will not be solved.
>
> Olav Kjørven
> Assistant Secretary-General, Director of Bureau for Development Policy
> United Nations Development Programme

Main conclusions

- Parliamentarians must continue to push for the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals process, which still has two years to run, as the post-2015 development agenda will need to build on those goals. At the same time, there is a need as well as an opportunity for parliamentarians to be directly involved in the framing of the new agenda and attendant sustainable development goals. That will strengthen national ownership of the agenda and set the stage for effective implementation afterwards.
- As was the case for the Millennium Development Goals, the success of the sustainable development goals will depend on close monitoring by

parliaments. This includes participating in the design of national strategies for sustainable development and ensuring that national budgets are aligned with the new agenda. A dedicated monitoring structure may be needed in parliaments to ensure that the new goals are institutionalized.

- Achieving sustainable development will continue to depend most critically on the integration of economic, social and environmental policies at all levels. Parliamentarians need to support this effort, while also helping to extend the policy horizon to the long term and well beyond the next election.

- Parliamentarians also have a unique role to play in rallying public opinion around national development goals as well as resources for development. Part of the task, in the developed world, will be to persuade electorates that the sustainable development goals very much involve them as well.

- Parliamentarians should increase their participation in the work of the United Nations, which has been increasingly open to a wide range of stakeholders. The inaugurating post-2015 development agenda should offer an opportunity for increasing such interaction and for inaugurating a new era in the relations between the United Nations and parliaments.

Annex II

List of panellists and moderators

The format of the 2013 parliamentary hearing was entirely in interview style. Each panel was composed of high-level representatives and parliamentarians, who were interviewed by a renowned journalist or author. Following the initial interview (50-60 minutes long), the floor was opened for questions or comments from participants. Sessions I and III were preceded by a keynote speech.

Session I examined the topic of a new economic model for sustainable development and the path towards well-being. Following a keynote address by Professor Tim Jackson, University of Surrey, United Kingdom, author of *Prosperity without Growth*, the subject was discussed by Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, Co-chair of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on the Sustainable Development Goals; Ambassador Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations; Ximena Del Rocio Peña Pacheco, National Assembly of Ecuador; and Petra Bayr, National Council of Austria. The session was moderated by journalist and author Andrew Revkin.

Session II examined the topic of gender as a linchpin of development and how to frame a new goal. The subject was discussed by Ambassador Gréta Gunnarsdóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations; Ambassador George Wilfred Talbot, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations; Gabriela Montaño, President of the Senate, Plurinational State of Bolivia; and John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme, UN-Women. The session was moderated by journalist Michelle Goldberg.

Session III examined the topic of democratic governance for sustainable development and its place among the new goals. Following a keynote address by Gunilla Carlsson, former member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and former Minister of Development Cooperation of Sweden, the topic was discussed by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ambassador Paul Seger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations; Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations; Anne Makinda, Speaker of the National Assembly, United Republic of Tanzania; and Senator Aitzaz Ahsan, Pakistan. The session was moderated by news producer Nermeen Shaikh.

Session IV examined the topic of parliaments and the new post-2015 development agenda: getting ready for implementation, which was discussed by Ambassador Martin Sajdik, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations and Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council; Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme; Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Parliament, Bangladesh; and Senator Fauzaya Talhaoui, Senate of Belgium. The session was moderated by Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

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Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

Note by the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present note provides background information and suggests points for reflection to inform discussion on the following selected themes:

(a) World economic situation and prospects;

(b) Mobilization of financial resources and their effective use for sustainable development;

(c) Global partnership for sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

* The present note was prepared in consultation with the staff of the major institutional stakeholders involved in the financing for development process. Responsibility for its content, however, is solely that of the United Nations Secretariat.

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I. World economic situation and prospects for 2014

Global growth prospects for 2014

1. Despite the turbulence experienced in financial markets at the beginning of 2014 as a number of emerging market economies suffered sell-offs in their equity markets and the depreciation of their currencies, the global economic outlook, as projected in the United Nations publication *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2014*, remains broadly positive. World gross product is expected to grow by 3.0 per cent in 2014, a measurable improvement compared with the preliminary estimate of subdued growth of 2.1 per cent for 2013.

2. The improved global prospects for 2014 are predicated primarily on two considerations: a strengthened recovery in major developed economies and the stabilization of growth in large emerging economies. With the euro area finally extricating itself from a protracted recession, all major developed economies are on the same upward trajectory for the first time since 2011. This will not only reinforce the recovery among developed economies, but also produce impetus for the growth of developing and emerging economies. Meanwhile, a few large emerging economies, such as those of China and India, have managed to halt the growth deceleration that they experienced over the past few years.

3. Nonetheless, the projected growth is still insufficient to narrow the output gap in the world economy in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. Risks remain, particularly with regard to the unwinding of unconventional monetary policies of developed countries. In addition, geopolitical risk remains, as does the risk of a further slowdown in some emerging market countries.

4. With respect to developed countries, it is estimated that the United States of America will experience growth of 2.5 per cent for 2014, compared with 1.9 per cent in 2013. A continued moderate improvement is expected in the housing sector as well as in employment. Despite the ongoing tapering of quantitative easing, the monetary policy stance remains accommodative, while the fiscal drag that weighed on growth during 2013 is expected to be alleviated, as an agreement has been reached to lift the fiscal sequester and the debt ceiling, at least for 2014.

5. After emerging from recession in the second quarter of 2013, the economic situation in Western Europe has continued to improve, with gross domestic product (GDP) expected to grow by 1.5 per cent in the region and 1.1 per cent in the euro area in 2014. The recovery, which was initially led by net exports, has increasingly been supported by domestic demand, particularly private and public consumption. Investment spending is expected to pick up moderately in 2014. Nonetheless, growth remains weak, owing to a number of factors: fiscal austerity programmes, while reduced in intensity, remain a drag; intraregional demand is still low; and lending conditions remain tight in some countries, particularly for small- and medium-sized enterprises. As a result, expected growth is expected to be too meagre to make a significant dent in the exceptionally high rates of unemployment across many countries in the region.

6. The economic situation in the new European Union members in Eastern Europe has improved since the second half of 2013, with business sentiment and household confidence strengthening in response to the return to growth in Western

Europe and less austere fiscal policies. It is forecast that GDP growth in the region will strengthen moderately, by 2.1 per cent, in 2014.

7. Growth in Japan has been boosted by a set of expansionary policy packages, including fiscal stimulus and large-scale purchases of assets by the central bank. Fixed investment has been a key driver of growth, as a number of public construction projects have been financed by the supplemental budget. However, the anticipated increase in the consumption tax rate over the next two years is expected to curb growth. It is forecast that GDP will grow by 1.5 per cent in 2014, moderating compared with the previous year.

8. Among developing countries, growth prospects in Africa remain relatively robust. It is projected that, after estimated growth of 4.0 per cent in 2013, GDP will accelerate to 4.7 per cent in 2014. Growth prospects are expected to be supported by improvements in the global economy and the regional business environment, relatively high and stable commodity prices, an increase in infrastructural investment, and increasing trade and investment ties with emerging economies. Other important factors for Africa's medium-term growth prospects include increasing domestic demand, especially from a growing class of new consumers associated with urbanization and rising incomes.

9. Economic growth in East Asia, after having moderated over the past few years, is expected to pick up slightly, increasing to 6.1 per cent, in 2014, driven mainly by a gradual recovery in export growth amid improving conditions in developed countries. In most East Asian economies, private consumption and investment will continue to expand at a solid pace, supported by stable labour market conditions, low inflation and fairly accommodative monetary policies. Fiscal policies will remain moderately expansionary and will continue to provide support for growth. China is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent in 2014. However, in some countries credit growth and real estate bubbles pose risks to financial stability.

10. It is forecast that growth in South Asia will pick up moderately, increasing to 4.6 per cent, in 2014, supported by a gradual recovery in domestic demand in India and an upturn in external demand. However, in most economies growth will likely remain well below the level seen prior to the global financial crisis. Private consumption and investment are held back by a wide range of factors, including energy and transport constraints, volatile security conditions and macroeconomic imbalances.

11. Growth in Western Asia is expected to accelerate to 4.3 per cent in 2014. While the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council have been on a stable recovery path, a number of other economies in the region continue to be affected by political instability, social unrest, security incidents and geopolitical tensions. For example, the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic has been affecting the neighbouring countries in a multifaceted way. Meanwhile, Turkey continues to face financial pressures, with its currency depreciating and interbank interest rates rising as a result of the decline in international capital inflows.

12. It is projected that growth in Latin America and the Caribbean will improve to 3.6 per cent in 2014. Brazil is still growing at a subdued pace, curbed by weak external demand, volatility in international capital flows and tightening monetary policy. Growth in Mexico and Central America is expected to accelerate in 2014, supported by better performance on the part of manufacturing exports and stable

domestic demand, as well as structural adjustment. Growth in the Caribbean has been hampered by weak external demand, particularly in the tourism sector, as well as by weaker commodity prices, but is expected to strengthen.

13. With regard to economies in transition, growth in most economies of the Commonwealth of Independent States decelerated over the past year, curbed by weak exports and external financing constraints, supply-side bottlenecks and weak consumer and business confidence. The baseline forecast is for a modest strengthening in the region's growth in 2014, by 3.4 per cent. The unfolding geopolitical tensions associated with the situation in Ukraine have already worsened economic prospects and, if not promptly mitigated, could have more substantial consequences for the region, given the strong trade and remittance links of the Commonwealth countries with the Russian Federation.

14. It is projected that growth in South-Eastern Europe will accelerate to 2.6 per cent in 2014, but that will still be insufficient to address the region's long-standing needs for reindustrialization and excessively high unemployment rates. The external environment for those countries is expected to improve, including the terms of access to external finance. Given easing credit conditions, investment is expected to recover gradually.

Employment situation and inflation outlook

15. The global employment situation remains weak, as long-lasting effects of the financial crisis continue to weigh on labour markets in many countries and regions. Among developed economies, the euro area is facing the most challenging situation, with unemployment rates currently reaching 27 per cent and youth unemployment rates more than 50 per cent in Greece and Spain. The unemployment rate has declined in the United States but remains elevated.

16. Long-term unemployment remains a significant issue in many developed countries. In developing countries and economies in transition, the unemployment situation is mixed, with extremely high structural unemployment in North Africa and Western Asia, particularly among young people. By contrast, unemployment rates in Latin America and the Caribbean are at record lows. Still, high rates of informal employment and pronounced gender gaps in employment continue to characterize labour markets in many developing countries.

17. Inflation remains tame worldwide, reflecting, inter alia, excess capacity, high unemployment, fiscal austerity and a continued financial deleveraging in major developed economies. Among developed economies, deflationary concerns are rising in the euro area, while Japan has managed to end its decade-long deflation. Among developing countries and economies in transition, inflation rates are above 10 per cent in only about a dozen economies scattered across various regions, particularly in South Asia and Africa.

International trade and finance

18. The growth of world merchandise trade weakened further in 2013, dragged down by slow global growth. Sluggish demand in many developed countries and faltering growth in developing countries led to a decline in world export volume growth from 3.1 per cent in 2012 to only 2.3 per cent in 2013, well below the trend seen prior to the financial crisis. The prospects for world trade are expected to

improve, driven by a modest increase in demand in Europe, further recovery in the United States and a return to more dynamic trade in East Asia. It is projected that world exports will grow by 4.6 per cent in 2014. Trade in services, recovering faster than merchandise trade, is expected to continue growing during the forecast period.

19. Commodity prices displayed divergent trends over the course of 2013, with commodity prices expected to remain relatively flat on average. Food prices gradually declined, owing to better-than-expected harvests of major crops. Soft demand, ample supply and high stock levels all contributed to declines in base metals prices. Oil prices saw significant fluctuations over the course of the year as a result of geopolitical issues.

20. Private capital inflows to a number of developing countries and economies in transition declined in 2013 and early 2014, while volatility in the financial markets of emerging economies increased significantly, resulting in equity market sell-offs and the sharp depreciation of local currencies. This was triggered in part by the decision of the United States Federal Reserve to taper the amount of its monthly purchases of long-term assets. The risk of weak growth prospects for emerging economies has also played a role in triggering the decline of capital inflows. At the same time, developing countries reached a new record with respect to foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2013.[1]

21. Global imbalances, namely, the current-account imbalances across major economies, continued to narrow to a benign level in 2013. The current level is not considered to pose an imminent threat to the stability of the world economy, although efforts to strengthen international policy coordination should continue in order to prevent the imbalances from again widening to excessive levels in the longer run.

Uncertainties and downside risks

22. Uncertainties and risks for global economic growth and financial stability in the coming years are associated predominantly with the unwinding of the unconventional monetary policies adopted in major developed countries. Indeed, since May 2013, when the United States Federal Reserve signalled the possibility of a tapering in the size of its monthly purchases of long-term assets, the world economy has already encountered two waves of financial turmoil. The first occurred in mid-2013, when equity and bond markets worldwide experienced a sharp sell-off. While equity prices in developed countries recuperated shortly thereafter, bond yields remain elevated compared with the level seen before May 2013. The shocks were most pronounced in emerging markets, leading to substantial declines in capital inflows for the first time since 2009. Equity prices in emerging markets plummeted and risk premiums, as measured by the spreads of the bond yields, increased significantly.

23. Another wave of financial turbulence occurred in early 2014, when equity prices in developed markets declined by approximately 5 per cent, while emerging markets experienced more pronounced declines. Again, developed markets recuperated quickly shortly thereafter, but emerging markets failed to rebound. As a result, the divergence between developed and emerging markets in terms of equity

[1] See *Global Investment Trends Monitor*, No. 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), January 2014).

prices has been widening. Since the beginning of 2011, equity prices in developed markets have risen by some 50 per cent, with prices in emerging markets falling by almost 20 per cent.

24. The currencies of emerging economies such as those of Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Turkey have substantially lost value vis-à-vis the United States dollar in the short period from mid-2013 to January 2014, although some of them have since partially rebounded. The currencies of Argentina and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have also depreciated significantly, as has the currency of the Russian Federation, although this is also related to political events.

25. The vulnerability of many emerging economies to the tapering of quantitative easing and the subsequent decline in capital inflows is also associated with a number of country-specific risk factors. For example, in contrast with the financial deleveraging in major developed countries in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, bank credit in emerging economies has expanded rapidly over the past few years driven in part by the low interest rates in world capital markets associated with the quantitative easing adopted by major central banks. By certain measures, the ratio of bank credit to GDP in emerging economies has surpassed that in developed countries, indicating heightened risks of excessive and unsustainable credit expansion. Other country-specific factors include large current-account deficits, policy uncertainties, political risks and risks related to shadow banking, the housing sector and overcapacity.

Policy challenges

26. Macroeconomic policies worldwide should continue to focus on supporting a strong, balanced and sustainable recovery, particularly in terms of jobs. A number of countries are making concerted efforts to address both cyclical and structural unemployment challenges, aligning macroeconomic policies with domestic constraints and taking steps to promote productivity growth and innovation. However, further public investment in skills training and upgrading will be necessary to integrate the hitherto excluded working age population.

27. Policymakers in major developed countries should work to ensure a smooth process for the changes in quantitative easing coming over the next few years. A premature unwinding may risk choking off the economic recovery, but a delayed unwinding could risk creating financial bubbles. Efforts are needed to enhance the supervision, regulation and surveillance of financial markets in order to identify and mitigate financial risks and vulnerabilities. Central banks in major developed countries should develop clear communication strategies to articulate the timing and the targets of the policy action to be taken. In addition, some emerging market countries have called for greater consultations between developed and developing countries on these issues.

28. For developing countries and emerging economies, the challenge is to manage the ramifications of the unwinding of quantitative easing. These economies should monitor external and internal imbalances, build policy space and potentially use macroprudential measures and other capital account management mechanisms.

29. In addition, many countries, both developed and developing, have undertaken various institutional reforms, including with respect to social security, income distribution, the financial sector, taxation, energy, transportation, education and

health care. These reforms are crucial to the rebalancing of economic structures, the removal of supply-side constraints, the mobilization of resources for long-run investment and the improvement of macroeconomic management and financial regulation.

Suggested questions for discussion

1. **What type of macroeconomic policies worldwide can support a strong, balanced and sustainable recovery and help close the persistent output gap in the aftermath of the world financial and economic crisis?**

2. **How do we account for large differences in unemployment rates across regions and income groups? What policy measures can be used to reduce youth unemployment, increase formal employment and lower the gender gap in labour markets?**

3. **In addition to the cyclical downturn associated with the global financial and economic crisis, how have some structural factors, such as globalization and productivity, affected labour markets? What is the relationship between productivity growth and unemployment? What measures can countries take to increase employment while promoting greater productivity growth and innovation?**

4. **How can developing countries most effectively manage the ramifications of the unwinding of quantitative easing in developed countries?**

II. Mobilization of financial resources and their effective use for sustainable development

A comprehensive financing strategy for sustainable development

30. A broad and comprehensive post-2015 development agenda, with poverty eradication and sustainable development at its core, will require the creation of a comprehensive financing framework. To that end, the General Assembly established the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to develop options for a sustainable development financing strategy.

31. Although the Committee is still in the process of formulating its report, to be issued in September 2014, some preliminary conclusions have already been reached. In particular, participants agreed that the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development provide the basis for the financing framework, keeping in perspective lessons learned and emerging challenges. In that context, it was agreed that the domestic and international policy environments, including a fair multilateral trading system, external debt sustainability and good governance at the national and international levels, have a profound impact on the mobilization of finance for sustainable development. There is a consensus that the financing framework should emphasize complementarities and synergies across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. Given the large financing needs, there is also a strong consensus that all types of flows will be necessary, including domestic, international, public and private.

32. In the past, different financing streams were often seen as substitutable, on the basis of the view that money is fungible. However, recent analysis, which has focused on underlying incentives, has emphasized that different financing streams have different goals and objectives and should be seen as complementary, rather than supplementary.[2] For example, private finance will be more efficient than public finance in many instances; however, the short-term nature of some private flows might add risks that make those flows inappropriate for certain investments. Therefore, public financing, along with an appropriate policy framework, will remain indispensable.

33. Although estimates of the financing needs for sustainable development are necessarily imprecise, studies conclude, without exception, that needs are very great. The investment requirements for an energy transition respecting agreed climate targets alone are on the order of trillions of United States dollars per year.[3] While part of the needed investment would flow automatically if energy prices were set to fully reflect supply costs and environmental damage, there would still be insufficient financing for many public goods, including the global commons. Similarly, there is insufficient long-term financing to meet critical infrastructure needs, not only in the environmental area, but also in the social area, and for various economic entities, such as small and medium-sized enterprises, which are important means of employment generation in many countries. An enabling environment and the rule of law, both of which were emphasized in the Monterrey Consensus, are critical for long-term investment. Nonetheless, there is currently a shortage of financing in critical areas, even in countries with relatively strong enabling environments.

34. Given the sheer magnitude of financing needs, it is clear that public resources alone will not be sufficient. At the same time, despite the existence of small (but growing) pockets of socially conscious investors, private capital remains driven by the profit motive. The private sector thus underinvests in public goals because returns on such investments are not generally competitive on a risk-adjusted basis. Nonetheless, estimated financing needs still represent a relatively small portion of global savings, which totalled approximately $17 trillion in 2012.[4] Thus, a strengthened financing framework that incentivizes a partial reallocation of savings to the financing of sustainable development could have an enormous impact.

35. In short, a strengthened financing framework would ask the question of how to create a global financial system — including its public, private, domestic and international components — that incentivizes investors and other stakeholders to act in the interest of global sustainable development.

Building on lessons from Monterrey

36. As recognized by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the Monterrey Consensus should form the basis for a sustainable development financing strategy. In addition, as noted in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, multiple financing for development challenges and opportunities have emerged since the Monterrey Conference,

[2] See http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2091Executive%20Summary-UNTT%20WG%20on%20SDF.pdf.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Ibid.

including the impact of the financial crisis, additional costs of climate change mitigation and adaptation and damage to the Earth's environment. There have also been changes to the development landscape with the growth of middle-income countries, as well as a greater focus on the role of the private sector. At the same time, the financial crisis has underscored limits and risks in private sector financing and the importance of the stability of financial markets to the real economy.

37. The underlying premise of the Monterrey Consensus is that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, while national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment. Chapter II.A of the Monterrey Consensus, entitled "Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development", emphasizes the importance of national responsibility. The following sections on international private flows, foreign aid and external debt bring in the additional financing streams. Sections on trade and systemic issues (and, to some extent, external debt) are focused on the importance of providing a stable international environment conducive to growth.

38. Substantial progress has been made in all of these areas since the Monterrey agreement was forged. Nonetheless, the post-2015 development agenda provides a unique opportunity to redouble efforts in each of these areas, as well as to strengthen the financing strategy to address global development challenges.

Domestic resource mobilization

39. Domestic resources, including public and private investment, are the most important source of financing for development in most countries. The mobilization of public resources in developing countries has increased dramatically since the turn of the millennium. Government tax revenue in emerging markets and developing countries has increased more than fivefold since 2000, with tax revenues as a percentage of GDP increasing from approximately 13 per cent in 2000 to some 18 per cent in 2011 for emerging markets and developing countries overall and from 11 per cent to 15 per cent for low-income countries. However, with tax-to-GDP ratios averaging approximately 35.4 per cent in countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),[5] there is still a significant gap between the capacity of developed and developing countries to raise public revenues, particularly for low-income countries.

40. Domestic resource mobilization needs to be viewed in the context of differing capacities of countries, and a challenge lies in designing policies to scale up tax revenues in the poorest countries. Ultimately, domestic resource mobilization is generated by sustained and equitable economic growth, so that macroeconomic policies play an important role.

41. Tackling illicit financial flows can also play an important role in mobilizing public sector resources. Illicit financial flows out of Africa, for example, have become a major concern because of their scale and their systematic adverse impact on the continent's development and governance agenda. The international community can contribute by more effectively combating tax avoidance and tax evasion through greater international tax cooperation, by supporting developing countries in enhancing their taxation capacities and strengthening anti-money-laundering measures, mutual legal assistance and the exchange of information between countries.

[5] Ibid.

42. Sustainable development financing will need to rely on domestic financial systems, and ultimately on domestic investors, to mobilize savings and channel them into productive investment and sustainable development. There has been significant growth in this area over the past 15 years, particularly with regard to the deepening of government bond markets. However, long-term financing for private borrowers in domestic markets remains subdued in many developing countries.

43. The structure of financial systems in most developing countries tends to be dominated by the banking system, whose financing is generally short-term in nature and therefore not well suited for covering firms' longer-term financing needs for investment projects. Deeper capital markets could provide a conduit for the long-term investment necessary for sustainable development. Thus, the development of local capital markets has been a priority on the global agenda, including in discussions in the Group of 20 (G20). Nonetheless, there is a risk that nascent markets will attract speculative capital, leading to short-term bubbles, which can collapse when global investor sentiment changes, causing shocks to the real economy. In addition to sound macroeconomic frameworks, it is therefore important that countries design a strong macroprudential regulatory framework, potentially in conjunction with capital-account management.[6]

44. A domestic institutional investor base, including domestic pension funds and insurance companies, could provide a more stable source of investment. Indeed, pension and insurance assets have grown dramatically in developing countries, reaching some $5.5 trillion, double pre-2008 levels[7] and more than 10 times the amounts estimated in 2002. However, the institutional investor base in developing countries is still significantly lower than that in high-income countries. Furthermore, even in developed countries long-term investment by institutional investors, particularly in sustainable development, is limited. Thus, there is a need to develop these areas in conjunction with regulatory structures that encourage such long-term investment.

45. The goal of the financial system is to intermediate credit, and there is a need to ensure access to credit, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises. Today, some 200 million enterprises in emerging markets lack adequate financing and financial services[8] and more than a third of the world's population is excluded from the formal financial system. However, there is evidence that finance for small and medium-sized enterprises is not necessarily correlated with deeper financial sectors, and, consequently, there exists a space for policy interventions aimed at increasing financial inclusion, even in countries with undeveloped markets.[9]

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[6] See *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2012* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.II.C.2), chap. III; see also *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2013* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.II.C.2), chap. III.

[7] See http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/14/emerging-investment-idUSL6N0MB18O20140314.

[8] See *The Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013* (World Economic Forum, 2012).

[9] See "Challenges in raising private sector resources for financing sustainable development" (United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda Working Group on Sustainable Development Financing, 2013), available at http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2106UNTT%20Chapter%20III.pdf.

Foreign direct investment and other private flows

46. There has also been a strong upward trend in international private capital flows to developing countries over the past decade. However, this trend has been subject to great volatility. Foreign direct investment (FDI) has exhibited the largest trend increase and has also shown greater stability. Flows of FDI to developing economies have increased more than fourfold since 2002, reaching $759 billion and accounting for 52 per cent of global foreign direct investment inflows in 2013.[1] Nonetheless, FDI to developing countries has been concentrated in a few countries and sectors, and has not been flowing sufficiently into sustainable development. The large majority of FDI to developing countries continues to be channelled to Asia and Latin America, while flows to Africa, while higher than a decade ago, remain limited and concentrated in the extractive sectors. There have been some signs of increased investment in the manufacturing and services sectors in recent years, however.

47. Portfolio flows and cross-border bank lending have tended to be extremely volatile. This includes portfolio flows from international institutional investors, which are estimated to hold between $75 trillion and $85 trillion in assets and have been looked to as a potential source of financing for sustainable development. To date, however, a large proportion of their assets remain in short-term liquid instruments, and these investors tend to invest with relatively short investment horizons. For example, direct investment in infrastructure globally represents less than 1 per cent of pension fund assets, with investments in clean infrastructure being considerably lower. There are several reasons for this shortfall, including regulatory uncertainty and weak legal frameworks and governance at the country level. Nevertheless, it is notable that investment in these areas is insufficient in both developed and developing countries, across a wide range of policy and regulatory regimes, albeit to differing extents. In this regard, there may be a need for policymakers to consider the impact of the regulatory structure, including potential alternatives such as mark-to-market accounting, on long-term investments, as well as other measures. At the same time, "bottom up" measures driven by the industry, pensioners and civil society can also encourage investors to ensure that their performance evaluation and compensation systems are consistent with sustainable finance.

48. Remittance inflows increased over the past decade to more than $400 billion in 2013. Remittances are private transfers to households in developing countries. They are likely to have important macroeconomic impacts through the multiplier effect in countries in which they represent a sizeable share of capital inflows, and to have a positive impact on lowering poverty. To date, however, evidence suggests that these private flows are generally channelled into consumption, rather than into development-oriented investments. The Monterrey Consensus emphasized the importance of reducing the transfer costs of migrant workers' remittances and creating opportunities for development-oriented investments. Despite recent efforts to address this concern, particularly through the reduction of costs, including in the G20, more needs to be done.

49. The official sector will need to play an important role in incentivizing private flows in favour of longer-term investment, including in infrastructure, in green economy activities and in low-income and least developed countries. This was recognized in the Monterrey Consensus, which stressed the need to support new public/private sector financing mechanisms, both debt and equity, for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to benefit in particular small

entrepreneurs and small and medium-size enterprises and infrastructure. Since the International Conference on Financing for Development, the sophistication of these mechanisms has increased, as has the understanding of pitfalls, risks and benefits. Public-private partnerships, equity investments, guarantees and insurance have become increasingly looked to as mechanisms for using official resources to leverage private financing through risk-sharing between the public and private sectors. However, it is important that such mechanisms learn from success and failures of the past. In particular, it is crucial to engage in "fair" risk-sharing, in which taxpayers are fairly compensated for any risks they incur and are able to share in the potential upside where appropriate. A deeper understanding of these mechanisms, based on risks and underlying incentives, should provide a basis for the new financing strategy.

50. Overall, policies to facilitate investment need to take a multifaceted approach, including: (a) reducing risks by creating an enabling environment; (b) fair risk-sharing to leverage private resources with public funds; (c) addressing short-term investor incentives; and (d) balancing regulations to ensure financial sector stability with access to credit and financial services.

International financial and technical cooperation for development

51. After a significant decline in official development assistance (ODA) throughout the 1990s, donor apathy was reversed in the early years of the new millennium. Following the 2000 Millennium Summit of the United Nations and the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development, net ODA flows from all OECD Development Assistance Committee donors increased significantly, from $84 billion in 2000 to a high of $137 billion in 2010.

52. The focus of the Millennium Development Goals on social development corresponded with a large increase in aid to social sectors, in particular the health sector. In addition, as concerns about environmental degradation and climate change have grown, aid targeting environmental sustainability has seen a particularly strong increase. Environmental aid now represents a quarter of all bilateral aid.[10]

53. However, since 2010 ODA has fallen for two consecutive years, by a total of 6 per cent in real terms, owing to fiscal pressures in donor countries in the aftermath of the financial crisis. It also falls far short of international commitments, and only a few donor countries meet the United Nations ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income. Despite their high dependency on official financing flows, least developed countries were disproportionally affected by the overall decline in ODA, with their share in total ODA falling from 33 per cent in 2011 to 32 per cent in 2012.[11]

54. In addition to increasing the volume of aid flows, the international community has committed itself to increasing the effectiveness of aid through the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action and the 2011 Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, on the basis of principles of country ownership, the alignment of donor support with national development strategies, the harmonization of donor arrangements and procedures,

[10] See *Development Cooperation Report 2012: Lessons in Linking Sustainability and Development* (OECD).

[11] See http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/statisticsonresourceflowstodevelopingcountries.htm.

and a focus on results, mutual accountability, predictability and transparency. Progress has been made in all these areas, but it has been slow.[12]

55. The Monterrey Consensus also called for exploring innovative sources of financing. A significant number of such mechanisms have been implemented over the past decade, although the total contribution is still limited.[13] There are a number of proposals that both are technically feasible and have the potential to raise much larger revenues, including international taxes such as financial and currency transaction taxes or a carbon tax. Such mechanisms would be particularly well placed to provide international public financing for global public goods that is additional to traditional ODA. There has also been a large increase in South-South and triangular cooperation, as complementary to traditional development assistance.

International trade and external debt

56. After an impasse in multilateral trade negotiations, the participants in the recent Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) adopted the "Bali package" in December 2013. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation marks the first multilateral trade agreement adopted since the establishment of WTO. It is aimed at simplifying and modernizing customs procedures and making them more transparent, thereby reducing transaction costs. It offers developing and least developed countries a wide range of flexibilities with regard to its implementation. The Bali package also includes reforms that would create new export opportunities for least developed country service providers in developed-country markets; improvements in preferential schemes that extend exemptions from tariffs and quotas to least developed country exports; and simplification of the accompanying rules of origin, which will improve the market access opportunities for least developed countries. Further negotiations are still needed to advance multilateral trade on core issues relating to agriculture, industrial goods and services. Furthermore, regional trade agreements continue to boom, with 379 already in force. There is some concern about the potential effects on developing countries that are not part of regional trade agreements, such as marginalization or impacts on their competitiveness.

57. Significant progress has been made through debt relief programmes for poor countries, including through the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. As of April 2013, 35 of the 39 heavily indebted poor countries had increased poverty-reducing expenditures as their debt service payments declined. However, some developing as well as developed countries remain critically indebted and some small island developing States remain at significant risk of debt distress. Given the possibility of further potentially disruptive debt scenarios, the international community should make serious efforts to work towards a framework for the timely, orderly restructuring of sovereign debt.

Systemic issues

58. The international community has continued its efforts to improve the functioning, stability and resilience of the international monetary and financial system. More efforts are needed in key areas of, inter alia, macroeconomic policy coordination, financial regulation, multilateral surveillance, sovereign debt and the

[12] See *Aid Effectiveness 2005-2010: Progress in Implementing the Paris Declaration* (OECD, 2011).

[13] See *World Economic and Social Survey 2012: In Search of New Development Finance* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.II.C.1).

global financial safety net. For example, since the crisis significant reforms have been made to the regulatory structure of the international financial system through Basel III and recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board, with important implications for global financial market stability as well as access to credit crucial for sustainable development. These developments would, however, benefit from greater representation of developing countries in the regulatory reform process. Similarly, there have been important steps towards the governance reform of multilateral institutions, although more needs to be done to ensure sufficient voice and representation.

Climate finance

59. Climate finance is a critical pillar of sustainable development. However, climate financing has evolved largely on a separate track from conventional development finance. The international community has responded to the existing scarcity of climate finance by pledging to raise $100 billion per year by 2020. While only 10 years ago climate finance was managed by a small number of large funds associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process, there has since been a proliferation of public, private, bilateral and multilateral sources. In addition, several international public funds have been established to support biodiversity conservation.

60. However, despite the proliferation of funds and mechanisms, almost all of them remain undercapitalized. At the same time, an unintended consequence of this fragmented financial landscape for sustainable development is a dramatic increase in complexity, which has become increasingly difficult to navigate and may have reduced the potential for synergies to be harnessed by the international community. Ultimately, the most effective way to reduce this increased fragmentation and complexity is to ensure adequate capitalization of existing funds.

61. At the same time, there has been a distinct increase in FDI, domestic investment and blended financing with respect to climate change projects in developing countries. It is estimated that these new sources of finance have constituted nearly half of climate finance flows over the past two years. Meanwhile, countries need to put in place the right enabling environment for private participation, such as a robust and predictable regulatory framework, as well as environmental policies such as standards and support for carbon pricing. It will be through these integrated solutions at the country level that existing public and multilateral climate funds can be best leveraged.

Suggested questions for discussion

1. **While private for-profit investors can meet many of the investment needs for sustainable development, some activities are best addressed by Governments, in many cases supported by official cooperation. What lessons can be drawn from the experiences gained and international discussions held thus far to boost cooperation effectiveness and strengthen confidence in the efficacy of increased development cooperation flows?**

2. **What kinds of policies would help incentivize greater private sector financing of sustainable development? How can public resources more effectively leverage private sector investments for sustainable development? What can be**

learned from past experiences, and what mechanisms would be most effective in different circumstances?

3. **There is great interest in corporate social responsibility. Will this be sufficient to fill financing needs, or are regulatory and other policy approaches also necessary?**

4. **What are the implications of a comprehensive post-2015 development agenda focused on poverty eradication and sustainable development for the**

III. Global partnership for sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda

Origins of the global partnership for development and financing for development

62. The concept of a global partnership for development as a set of commitments with regard to promoting development has a long history at the United Nations. That history includes the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, but goes back much further. As the international community moves towards the formulation of a post-2015 development agenda, which needs to be underpinned by a strengthened global partnership for sustainable development, important lessons can be drawn from past experience, in particular the emergence of the global partnership within the United Nations at the intergovernmental level, its role as a vehicle for the implementation of development goals and its relationship to broader strategies for means of implementation, such as the financing for development process.

63. Efforts to promote development through a global partnership are reflected in a long sequence of international declarations and intergovernmental agreements. They date back to the 1969 report of the Commission on International Development, which highlighted the need for commitments on the part of both developed and developing countries. In the 1980s and 1990s, the General Assembly promoted development partnerships through the adoption of international development strategies.[14]

64. The concept of a global partnership gained momentum in follow-up to the 2000 Millennium Declaration. Following its adoption, the Secretary-General led United Nations system-wide consultations with a wide range of institutional stakeholders and proposed a "Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration". The annex to that document contained a list of goals and targets, which became the Millennium Development Goals. Goals 1-7 reflected concrete development objectives, while Goal 8 spoke to their means of implementation and called on the international community to develop a global partnership for development.

65. The global partnership for development embodied in Millennium Development Goal 8 addresses key building blocks for a more effective system of international development cooperation in five areas: (a) official development assistance; (b) market access (trade); (c) external debt sustainability; (d) access to affordable essential medicines; and (e) new technologies, especially in the areas of information and

[14] See *The Global Partnership for Development: The Challenge We Face*, MDG Gap Task Force Report 2013 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.I.5).

communications. In addition, it emphasized the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

66. Millennium Development Goal 8 played a critical role in the Millennium Development Goals framework, as it recognized the importance of an enabling external economic environment. However, it lacked specific targets to finance the Goals and development more broadly. Indeed, given the complexity of the international financial system, it would be difficult to circumscribe the wide set of actions required to develop a stable international financial system able to support development within a goal framework.

67. In this context, the preparations for the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, which had started three years earlier, provided a unique opportunity for the international community to spell out a broad financing for development framework, taking into account all sources of development financing and also addressing in a systematic manner the international financial architecture, financial stability and other systemic issues as key components of the global partnership for development.

68. The Monterrey Consensus contained a wide range of commitments by both developed and developing countries, including financial commitments, as well as commitments to policy action at the domestic and international levels. The preparatory process and the Conference itself were reflective of a broad and inclusive global partnership, as evidenced by the close engagement of major institutional stakeholders such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as civil society and the business community.

69. The financing for development framework, embodied in both the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration, spelled out the means to arrive at an effective system of international development cooperation in a comprehensive manner. Similar to Millennium Development Goal 8, it included official development assistance, market access and debt sustainability as three of its key areas, but it also addressed domestic resource mobilization, private financing flows and systemic issues.

70. Since its formulation, the global partnership has inspired serious efforts and galvanized action by all stakeholders across a range of policy areas. As a result, the world has witnessed significant progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. However, progress has been uneven and unfinished business remains. In addition, new challenges have emerged or have become more urgent.

Progress in implementing the global partnership for development

71. As discussed above, after significant increases in ODA throughout the first decade of the new millennium, momentum in reaching the United Nations target of allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national income to development aid has stalled in recent years. In the area of trade, an increasing proportion of exports from least developed countries are entering developed-country markets on a preferential basis. Nonetheless, the global trading system today remains complex and fragmented. Aid for trade could be important in addressing the supply-side constraints faced by developing countries, especially least developed countries. The Heavily Indebted

Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative have successfully relieved the debt distress of many low-income countries, freeing up resources for efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. However, these international initiatives have dealt with specific cases of debt relief, rather than setting up a framework for resolving debt distress. The global partnership could foster a dialogue on debt sustainability and on how to effectively deal with sovereign debt defaults and distress in a timely, equitable and less costly manner.

72. Despite significant improvements, there remains a need for greater access to affordable essential medicines to accelerate the progress being made on the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals. Wider use of the trade-related provisions set out in the intellectual property rights regulations of WTO, together with greater use of innovative mechanisms to lower costs and increase access to essential medicines in low- and middle-income countries, could be pursued as part of the global efforts in this area.

73. There is still a need to increase access to and the affordability of the Internet. Technology transfer and access to green technologies and technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience are also needed. In this context, special attention should be given to strengthening the domestic capabilities and national innovation systems of developing countries.

74. In addition to fostering further progress in these critical areas, aimed at finishing the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, a new global partnership for sustainable development will need to address new challenges and emerging issues, such as the impact of the financial crisis, additional costs of climate change mitigation and adaptation and damage to the environment, as well as changes to the international development landscape.

Towards a new global partnership for sustainable development

75. The post-2015 development agenda will have to be underpinned by a renewed and strengthened global partnership for sustainable development, grounded in the values of equity, solidarity and human rights, which builds on the strengths of the existing framework while taking on board the lessons learned, and going beyond when necessary to address new challenges.

76. In view of the major challenges the world is facing today, this global partnership for sustainable development will need to engage all relevant stakeholders, galvanizing action at the local, national and global levels. Only a joint effort, leveraging the strengths of all actors, including civil society, the private sector, local governments, national parliaments and others, will permit the realization of the shared vision embodied in a sustainable development agenda.

77. The new global partnership will be agreed by States Members of the United Nations. At its heart, then, it will define a compact of commitments to policy actions on the part of Member States. Its successful implementation, however, hinges on the engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

78. As new global concerns have arisen or have gained in urgency, these commitments to policy action will have to be broader than those reflected in Millennium Development Goal 8, addressing in an integrated manner the three dimensions of sustainable development. In order to be effective, the global

partnership will also require a strengthened, robust and inclusive monitoring and accountability mechanism, to monitor progress in the implementation of commitments.

79. At the same time, the global partnership for sustainable development needs to provide space and flexibility for engagement with a much broader range of actors. In the quest to achieve sustainable development goals, multi-stakeholder implementing partnerships can engage and bring to the table all relevant stakeholders for a specific purpose or goal, allowing them to leverage their comparative advantages and respective strengths.

80. Such partnerships have been in place for many years and have taken on an increasingly important role in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. They have raised significant resources, mobilized technical expertise and knowledge, contributed to efficiency gains in delivery, built momentum on the ground and helped build consensus around controversial issues. Initiatives such as Every Woman, Every Child; Global Education First; Sustainable Energy for All; and the Zero Hunger Challenge have also shown that multi-stakeholder partnerships can mobilize political and financial commitments and catalyse innovation. For these reasons, such partnerships can play a key role in the implementation of the post-2015 agenda, as a complement to intergovernmentally agreed commitments.

81. While non-State actors, including the private sector in particular, may at times be too fragmented and dispersed to make comprehensive and binding commitments that can be monitored in an intergovernmental forum, their contributions are indispensable for the achievement of sustainable development. The global partnership for sustainable development will thus rely on the renewed commitments of public stakeholders and on the flexibility to engage all stakeholders to draw on their respective strengths. To that end, it will need to be embedded in a broad and comprehensive financing framework for sustainable development.

82. Such a framework would contain renewed and strengthened commitments, while providing guidance to all relevant stakeholders in their efforts to contribute to sustainable development. As the financing and development landscape is increasingly characterized by many dispersed actors and a high level of complexity, its most important contribution may lie in setting the right incentives for this broad range of actors to facilitate sustainable development financing and investment.

83. A broad sustainable development financing framework would also address sustainable development in all its dimensions, in an integrated manner. It would speak to the sustainable development agenda as a whole, encompassing, but not being limited to, the set of sustainable development goals to be adopted by the international community in September 2015.

84. In order to do so effectively, it would draw on all sources of financing, including public and private, domestic and international sources, in a complementary manner and would outline policy actions at the local, national and international levels. Lastly, it would address systemic issues, including in particular the stability of the international financial system and the need for the participation of all relevant actors in global policymaking and dialogue.

85. In December 2013, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 68/204, to convene a third international conference on financing for development to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, to reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up

process, to identify obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints, and to address new and emerging issues, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation, taking into account the current evolving development cooperation landscape, the interrelationship of all sources of development finance, the synergies between financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as the need to support the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

86. The preparatory process for the conference will take into consideration the work and outputs of other relevant processes and events, such as the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and UNCTAD, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals.

Suggested questions for discussion

1. **What are the lessons learned from the current global partnership? Which are the most pressing new challenges and emerging issues that a renewed global partnership for development needs to address? What would it take to forge this renewed and strengthened global partnership?**

2. **How can the renewed global partnership for development be best integrated into the post-2015 development agenda? Should it be captured in a separate goal and/or linked to specific goals and targets? How should it be linked to the third international conference on financing for development, and what should its relationship be to a broader financing framework for sustainable development?**

3. **How can multi-stakeholder partnerships be most effectively used to contribute to sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda? How should they be integrated into the global partnership for development?**

4. **What should be the role of the Economic and Social Council in promoting a global partnership for sustainable development in the context of the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda?**

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2014 session
Item 10 (d) of the provisional agenda*
Coordination, programme and other questions: long-term programme of support for Haiti

Letter dated 31 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to write to you in your capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council and, in line with my country's strong commitment to the situation in Haiti, I wish to inform you that Colombia is interested in joining the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

The Government of Colombia is developing broad cooperation with Haiti, through a number of projects to foster development, including strengthening the coffee production chain; contributing to the recovery and strengthening of food and nutrition security in Haiti; strengthening the Haitian National Institute for Vocational Training; rehabilitating communes, neighbourhoods and housing; contributing to the programme of support for and solidarity with Haiti; and collaborating through the Colombian comprehensive security cooperation strategy.

The Government of Colombia particularly appreciates the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti in fulfilment of its mandate to follow the country's long-term development strategy. Social and economic stability and the attainment of better living conditions for the Haitian people must remain the priorities of the international community's commitment to Haiti.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated to the members of the Economic and Social Council.

(*Signed*) María Emma **Mejía**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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2014 session
Item 10 (f) of the provisional agenda*
Coordination, programme and other questions: tobacco or health

United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, submitted pursuant to Council resolution 2013/12.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

Summary

The present report, prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO) pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/12, sets out the progress achieved since July 2013 in: (a) establishing the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases by expanding the mandate of the existing Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control; and (b) developing terms of reference for the Task Force, including a division of tasks and responsibilities.

The report details progress made since July 2013 in the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Task Force, which is convened and led by WHO; the development of terms of reference for the Task Force, including a division of tasks and responsibilities, in close collaboration with the Director General of WHO and in full consultation with Member States through the governing bodies of WHO; and the alignment by United Nations organizations of their activities with the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013-2020 to support countries in realizing the commitments made by Heads of State and Government at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held in September 2011.

The report underscores the fact that, given the insufficient and highly uneven progress at the country level, the United Nations system should scale up its capacities to support national efforts to implement priority actions if progress is to be widespread and sustainable in the post-2015 development era. A common workplan for United Nations organizations covering the period 2014-2015 to support Member States is to serve as a first reference for broader investments to take place.

I. Introduction

1. In the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex), Heads of State and Government expressed a commitment to a world free of the avoidable burden of non-communicable diseases, an issue that the Millennium Development Goals did not address. They acknowledged that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases constituted one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century and agreed on a bold set of commitments to respond to this challenge.

2. Planning ministries of developing countries, the United Nations system and civil society organizations rallied behind the commitments made in the Political Declaration, which constitute a paradigm shift in thinking about non-communicable diseases as an issue that: (a) requires Governments to assume a primary role and responsibility; and (b) goes beyond the health sector alone. Among the commitments made was a commitment to promote, establish or support and strengthen, by 2013, multisectoral national policies and plans for the prevention and control of non-com nunicable diseases, and to consider the development of national targets.

3. Following the adoption of the Political Declaration, the immediate challenge was to reach consensus on a global action plan that crystallized the commitments in clear, easy-to-communicate objectives that would help to guide coherent policy action at the global, regional and national levels. Accordingly, in its resolution 66.10, the World Health Assembly endorsed the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013-2020. The Global Action Plan provides a road map and a menu of policy options for Member States, the United Nations system and non-State actors to take coordinated and coherent action, at all levels, from 2013 to 2020, to attain nine global targets in 2025 and realize the commitments made in the Political Declaration.

4. Many developing countries, however, are struggling to move from these commitments to a multisectoral response that reduces the exposure risk factors for non-communicable diseases and enables health systems t respond more effectively and equitably. A global survey conducted by WHO in 2013 found that, while more developing countries have policies and plans to tackle non-communicable diseases than in 2010, few engage sectors outside the health sector. Moreover, existing policies and plans are often not funded or implemented. National capacities are particularly weak in the poorest countries. Demand from Governments for policy advice to support their efforts to address non-communicable diseases is very high. An analysis of 144 WHO country cooperation strategies that are jointly agreed with national authorities found that 136 strategies included requests for support in addressing non-communicable diseases. Arrangements to support country needs through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation continue to be inadequate. The Council, at its substantive session of 2013, provided a defining moment to set out an approach for ways in which the United Nations system responds to country demand for technical assistance when it adopted resolution 2013/12, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, convened and led by WHO and reporting to the Council through the Secretary-General.

II. Development of terms of reference for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

5. In its resolution 2013/12, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of WHO, and in full collaboration with Member States through the governing bodies of WHO, to develop the terms of reference for the Task Force, incorporating, but not limited to, the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control. The Council requested the Task Force to report back to the Council in 2014 through the Secretary-General. Accordingly, WHO convened the first meeting of the Task Force on 2 and 3 October 2013 to develop draft terms of reference for consideration by Member States at a formal meeting convened by WHO on 13 and 14 November 2013.

6. The report of the formal meeting of Member States was transmitted by the Director General of WHO to the 134th session of its Executive Board (held from 20 to 25 January 2014), which in turn transmitted the report to the sixty-seventh World Health Assembly (to be held from 19 to 24 May 2014) for its consideration. The report of the formal meeting of Member States is contained in the annex to the present report.

III. Work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

7. From 2011 to 2013, WHO convened six informal meetings of United Nations organizations to promote the implementation of the Political Declaration.[1] These meetings resulted in a number of informal collaborative arrangements being taken forward, including: (a) a global joint programme between the International Telecommunication Union and WHO on the use of mobile technologies to address non-communicable diseases;[2] (b) a global joint programme between the International Atomic Energy Agency and WHO on providing support for cancer control in developing countries; (c) a first joint letter from the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Director General of WHO proposing that the United Nations country teams integrate non-communicable diseases into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework design processes and implementation;[3] (d) a joint workshop on trade agreements and non-communicable diseases organized by UNDP and WHO;[4] and (e) a letter of agreement between the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and WHO on collaboration to assist developing countries in successfully addressing their disease burden of HIV and non-communicable diseases.[5] A number of heads of United Nations agencies delivered statements during this informal phase to raise the priority accorded to non-communicable diseases on international agendas[6] and

[1] Reports of the meetings are available from www.who.int/nmh/events/ncd_task_force/en/.
[2] See www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/ICT-Applications/Pages/Be_Healthy_intro.aspx.
[3] Available from www.who.int/nmh/media/undaf_20120329.pdf.
[4] Available from www.who.int/nmh/events/2013/updates_un_agencies/en/.
[5] Available from www.who.int/nmh/events/2013/letter_agreement.pdf.
[6] An overview is available from www.who.int/nmh/events/2013/updates_un_agencies/en/.

published discussion papers or analyses[7] on the impact of non-communicable diseases.

8. The first and second meetings of the Task Force were held on 2 and 3 October 2013 and on 29 and 30 January 2014, respectively.[1] The first meeting resulted in draft terms of reference, including a division of tasks and responsibilities, which served as an input to the formal meeting of Member States to complete the work on the terms of reference, which was convened by WHO on 13 and 14 November 2013. The second meeting resulted in a joint workplan covering the period 2014-2015 that will ensure policy coherence and accountability among United Nations organizations in their support for national efforts to implement the following set of priority actions recommended for Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Global Action Plan:

(a) Governance:

(i) Set national targets based on national situations, taking into account the nine global targets for non-communicable diseases;

(ii) Develop a national multisectoral policy and plan to achieve national targets, taking into account the Global Action Plan, and allocate a budget to implement the national plan;

(iii) Integrate non-communicable diseases into national health-planning processes and broader development agendas, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework design processes and implementation;

(iv) Prepare for the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases to be conducted by the General Assembly on 10 and 11 July 2014;

(b) Reduce exposure to risk factors and enable health systems to respond: prioritize the implementation of highly cost-effective and affordable interventions for all Member States included in appendix 3 to the Global Action Plan, as part of the implementation of a national multisectoral action policy and plan;

(c) Measure results: strengthen the surveillance of non-communicable diseases by implementing the WHO surveillance framework for non-communicable diseases covering the monitoring of: (i) risk factors and determinants; and (ii) outcomes (mortality and morbidity) and health systems response.

9. In a second joint letter sent to United Nations country teams on 24 February 2014, the Administrator of UNDP and the Director General of WHO reiterated the importance of mainstreaming non-communicable diseases into United Nations Development Assistance Framework roll-out processes and encouraged United Nations country teams to scale up their capacities to support Governments in implementing these priority actions.

10. Members of the Task Force have underscored their ongoing commitment to supporting Member States in implementing the Global Action Plan. To ensure

[7] See, for example, Ruth Bell and others, "Addressing the social determinants of non-communicable diseases", discussion paper commissioned by the HIV, Health and Development Group, UNDP, New York, October 2013. Available from www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/discussion-paper--addressing-the-social-determinants-of-noncommu/.

transparency, policy coherence and accountability, members agreed at the second meeting that individual and collaborative progress would be published at regular intervals on the WHO website. A first update was published in April 2014 and is available from www.who.int/nmh/en/.

IV. Ongoing work to reduce tobacco use

11. Members of the Task Force continue to acknowledge the special focus on tobacco control within the Task Force's mandate and remain committed to ensuring that tobacco control continues to be duly addressed and prioritized.

Multisectoral assistance

12. The Conference of the Parties, the governing body of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, has put in place multisectoral assistance mechanisms to help countries to implement the Convention (for more information, see the report of the Secretary-General on the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (E/2012/70)). The Conference of the Parties has requested the Convention secretariat to promote these assistance mechanisms by encouraging contributions from the members of the Task Force. These contributions remain important and need to continue to be encouraged.

13. Members of the Task Force continue to work on the basis that tobacco control is the cornerstone for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Members also reaffirm the potential of the Framework Convention as an internationally agreed and legally binding preventive global health tool. Support to Member States in accelerating the implementation of the Framework Convention is considered crucial in achieving a world free of the avoidable burden of non-communicable diseases. Public policies to address tobacco use and non-communicable diseases provide opportunities for synergy through:

- Applying lessons learned from the implementation of the Framework Convention to address other risk factors for non-communicable diseases.
- Mobilizing treaty principles to reinforce a whole-of-government approach to address non-communicable diseases and vice versa, where appropriate.
- Supporting countries through technical assistance, upon request, in areas of their respective mandates, in coordination with WHO and the secretariat of the Convention.
- Continuing to follow the matrix of potential contributions as identified in the reports of the Secretary-General on the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (E/2012/70 and E/2013/61). Accordingly, for the period 2014-2015, the Convention secretariat shall continue to pursue its work in line with the matrix of activities identified in the two reports.

National coordination mechanisms

14. National coordination mechanisms play an essential role in the sustainable implementation of the Framework Convention. Under article 5 (2) (a) of the Convention, parties have an obligation to set up such mechanisms at the national level. To highlight this aspect, during each joint needs assessment mission

undertaken, stakeholder meetings are organized with all relevant ministries, departments and representatives of civil society. However, further scale-up is required in 2014.

Coordination at the regional and country levels

15. During the second meeting of the Task Force, participants highlighted the importance of proper coordination of all information and technical support for tobacco control activities at all levels. Such coordination is necessary to ensure proper implementation of capacity-building activities and availability of multisectoral assistance to parties to the Convention, coordination at the level of regional offices/structures, and effective engagement with the United Nations country teams.

Surveillance and reporting obligations with regard to the implementation of the Convention and its impact on global health

16. Work on robust and functioning surveillance systems during the joint needs assessment missions continued. With the involvement of relevant national authorities and, where appropriate, international agencies, policy recommendations have been made on the Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys and the inclusion of core tobacco questions in WHO STEPS surveys demographic and health surveys and other surveys supported at the country level. The recommendations were made with a view to avoiding duplication and utilizing the most appropriate methods to collect data necessary for reporting obligations under the Convention. WHO leads such efforts without creating additional surveys, as the surveillance indicators are already harmonized with existing global surveys.

Knowledge management

17. In the context of the work on the Framework Convention information platform, which seeks to combine, in an integrated manner, information on the implementation of the Convention, members of the Task Force have been approached to take this work forward in 2014.

Tobacco and reproductive health

18. At the second meeting of the Task Force, WHO presented a report on the prevention and management of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure during pregnancy, and explored the implications of the recommendations contained in the report for public health professionals and United Nations organizations. The report was prepared pursuant to Council resolution 2010/8, in which the Council called upon all relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to work together to promote the reduction of tobacco use among women, in particular women of reproductive age, and those around them. The report was developed in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund.

19. Key recommendations include mandatory screening by health-care providers of all pregnant women for tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke, and the provision of advice on tobacco cessation to users. Furthermore, the report contains a recommendation that further research be carried out on pregnant women regarding the safety and efficacy of and factors affecting adherence to pharmacotherapeutic

cessation agents before conclusive judgements are made on the use of such interventions. The report also outlines the need for direct engagement between health-care providers and pregnant women and their families regarding tobacco use to provide advice and inform them of the risks of exposure to tobacco smoke. The report stresses the need for smoke-free health-care facilities, workplaces and public places for the protection of staff, patients and visitors, including pregnant women. Promoting the implementation of these recommendations will require the active engagement of the "H4+" agencies[8] and other United Nations organizations.

V. Conclusions

20. For the first time in history, resources and know-how are available to achieve a world free of the avoidable burden of non-communicable diseases. In its resolution 66.10, the World Health Assembly endorsed the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013-2020, which provides a road map and a menu of policy options for all Member States, United Nations organizations and other stakeholders to take coordinated and coherent action from 2013 to 2020 to attain nine global targets in 2025 and realize the commitments made in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. Within the United Nations system, WHO has been leading efforts to build a strategic coalition of United Nations organizations — with a role for each organization — and ensure policy coherence and accountability among United Nations organizations in promoting and supporting national action against non-communicable diseases.

21. Remarkable progress has been made since July 2013 with the establishment of the Task Force and the development of its terms of reference, including a division of tasks and responsibilities among United Nations organizations, in close collaboration with the Director General of WHO and in full consultation with Member States through the governing bodies of WHO. Many United Nations organizations, including some of the smallest, have started to align their activities with the Global Action Plan to support countries in realizing the commitments made in the Political Declaration.

22. Acting in unity to address non-communicable diseases requires a continued commitment to coordination and collaboration. The United Nations organizations must show that they can be effective in shaping a world free of the avoidable burden of non-communicable diseases. The comprehensive review and assessment by the General Assembly to be conducted on 10 and 11 July 2014 will provide a timely opportunity to rally political support for the acceleration of the implementation of actions foreseen in the Global Action Plan.

VI. Recommendations

23. **The following recommendations are submitted to the Economic and Social Council:**

[8] See www.who.int/reproductivehealth/global_strategy_women_children/h4plus/en/.

(a) The Council is invited to take note of the report of the formal meeting of Member States convened by WHO on 12 and 13 November 2013 to complete the work on the terms of reference for the Task Force, including a division of tasks and responsibilities for United Nations organizations (see annex), and to adopt its terms of reference, taking into account the recommendations of the 134th session of the Executive Board of WHO and the sixty-seventh World Health Assembly;

(b) The Council is invited to request the Secretary-General to continue to report to it on a yearly basis on progress made in implementing Council resolution 2013/12;

(c) The Council is invited to continue to call upon WHO, as the lead specialized agency for health, and all other relevant United Nations organizations, international financial institutions and other key international organizations to continue to work together in a coordinated manner to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and implement the commitments made in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases;

(d) The Council is invited to continue to encourage Member States to implement the policy options for Member States included in the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013-2020, and to give due consideration to the priority actions recommended for all Member States set out in paragraph 9 thereof.

Annex

Report of the World Health Organization formal meeting of Member States to complete the work on the terms of reference for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, including a division of tasks and responsibilities for United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and other international organizations

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) formal meeting of Member States to complete the work on the terms of reference for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, including a division of tasks and responsibilities for United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and other international organizations, was held in Geneva on 13 and 14 November 2013 and chaired by Dr. Lindiwe Makubalo (South Africa). The session was attended by representatives of 116 WHO member States, one regional economic integration organization and four organizations of the United Nations system.

2. The WHO discussion paper on draft terms of reference for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, including a division of tasks and responsibilities for United Nations organizations and other international organizations (A/NCD/UNT/1/2), and a report summarizing the outcomes of the first meeting of the Task Force (A/NCD/UNT/1/INF./1) were considered by member States.

3. The attached terms of reference for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (see appendix) were agreed by consensus.

4. The formal meeting requests the WHO Director General to submit this report and the attached terms of reference for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, through the WHO Executive Board at its 134th session, to the sixty-seventh World Health Assembly for its consideration, with a view to requesting the Secretary-General to include the terms of reference in his report on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/12 for the consideration of the Council at its substantive session of 2014.

5. The formal meeting strongly recommends that the WHO Executive Board consider this report and its attachments, with a view to noting the terms of reference and to recommending their submission to the World Health Assembly for consideration.

Appendix

Draft terms of reference for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, including a division of tasks and responsibilities for United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and other international organizations

The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (Task Force) and all its members affirm the right to health as a human right, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Actions of the Task Force and its members are to support, in accordance with their respective mandates, the realization of the commitments made in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non communicable Diseases and further elaborated in the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013-2020.

Introduction

1. In paragraph 13 of the Political Declaration, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments recognized the leading role of WHO as the primary specialized agency for health, including its roles and functions with regard to health policy in accordance with its mandate, and reaffirmed its leadership and coordination role in promoting and monitoring global action against non-communicable diseases in relation to the work of other relevant United Nations agencies, development banks and other regional and international organizations in addressing non-communicable diseases in a coordinated manner.

2. In paragraph 51 of the Political Declaration, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments called upon WHO, as the lead specialized agency for health, and all other relevant United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, the international financial institutions, development banks and other key international organizations to work together in a coordinated manner to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts.

3. In paragraph 1.1 of resolution 66.10, the World Health Assembly endorsed the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020. The Plan aims to operationalize the commitments by Heads of State and Government included in the Political Declaration. The Global Action Plan comprises a set of actions which, when performed collectively by (a) Member States, (b) international partners and the private sector, and (c) the WHO secretariat, will support Governments in their national efforts to contribute to the attainment of nine voluntary global targets for non-communicable diseases by 2025. The building and coordinating of results-oriented engagement or collaborative efforts, as appropriate, including with

non-health and non-State actors,[a] at the national, regional and global levels, for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases are essential components of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.

4. In paragraph 3.5 of resolution 66.10, the World Health Assembly requested the WHO Director General to work together with other United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to conclude the work, before the end of October 2013, on a division of tasks and responsibilities for United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and other international organizations.

5. In paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/12 on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish the Task Force by expanding the mandate of the existing Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control. The Task Force will be convened and led by WHO, report to the Council through the Secretary-General and incorporate the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, including the work to support the accelerated implementation by parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

6. In paragraph 2 of Council resolution 2013/12, the Council decided that the Task Force would coordinate the activities of the relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations to support the realization of the commitments made by Heads of State and Government in the Political Declaration, in particular through the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.

7. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Council urged all members of the existing Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control[b] and other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and intergovernmental organizations, to contribute, within their respective mandates, as appropriate, to the activities of the Task Force.

8. In paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the WHO Director General, and in full consultation with Member States through WHO, to develop the terms of reference for the Task Force, incorporating, but not limited to, the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force

[a] Non-State actors include academia and relevant non-governmental organizations, as well as selected private sector entities, as appropriate, excluding the tobacco industry, and including those that are demonstrably committed to promoting public health and are willing to participate in public reporting and accountability frameworks.

[b] World Health Organization, secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Civil Aviation Organization, International Labour Organization, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank, World Customs Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization and World Trade Organization.

on Tobacco Control and the current work of the WHO secretariat to develop a division of tasks and responsibilities, as exemplified by appendix 4 to the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020, and also requested the Secretary-General to include the terms of reference in his report on the implementation of the resolution for the consideration of the Council at its substantive session of 2014.

9. This appendix outlines the terms of reference for the Task Force, including a division of tasks and responsibilities for members of the Task Force.

Terms of reference

10. The terms of reference outline the purpose of the Task Force, as well as its objectives, participants, responsibilities of participants, periodicity of general meetings, working groups, secretariat, administrative arrangements and accountability, and include a collaborative division of tasks and responsibilities for members of the Task Force.

Purpose of the Task Force

11. The purpose of the Task Force described in paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/12 of 22 July 2013 is to:

> coordinate the activities of the relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations to support the realization of the commitments made by Heads of State and Government in the Political Declaration of the High level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, in particular through the implementation of the World Health Organization Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013-2020.

Objectives of the Task Force

12. Pursuant to Council resolution 2013/12, the objectives of the Task Force are as follows, taking into account the overall principles and approaches outlined in the Political Declaration and the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020, and in support of a global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases:

- To enhance and coordinate systematic support to Member States, upon request, at the national level, in efforts to support responses to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts.
- To facilitate systematic and timely information exchange among entities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations about existing and planned strategies, programmes and activities to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts, at the global, regional and national levels, including through the establishment of a virtual practice community for members of the Task Force, with updates regularly circulated to subscribers, and the preparation and regular updating of an inventory of United Nations system activities on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

- To facilitate information on available resources to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts, and to undertake resource mobilization for the implementation of agreed activities, including for joint programmes in accordance with guidelines of the United Nations Development Group.

- To strengthen advocacy in order to raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases on the international development agenda, including the post-2015 development agenda, and sustain the interest of Heads of State and Government in realizing their commitments through statements, reports and participation in panels by high-level United Nations officials.

- To incorporate the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, including by utilizing the matrix of work of the members of the Task Force on the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention, and to ensure that tobacco control continues to be duly addressed and prioritized in the new task force mandate.

- To strengthen international cooperation in support of national, regional and global plans for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, inter alia through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health promotion, legislation, regulation and health systems strengthening, training of health personnel, development of appropriate health-care infrastructure and diagnostics, and by promoting the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the production of affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines.

Members of the Task Force

13. Membership of the Task Force will be open to United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, the international financial institutions, development banks and other key intergovernmental organizations and treaty secretariats. The potential members are included in a list that appears at the end of this document.[c]

Responsibilities of the members of the Task Force

14. Within their respective mandates, as appropriate, the responsibilities of the members of the Task Force are to support, in a harmonized manner, the implementation and monitoring of relevant policy options and proposed actions for international partners included in the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020, as well as the objectives of the Task Force.

[c] The list of potential members that appears at the end of this document was prepared by the secretariat of the Task Force in December 2013 at the request of the formal meeting of Member States held in November 2013 and was submitted to the 134th session of the WHO Executive Board and the sixty-seventh World Health Assembly as part of the report of the formal meeting of Member States.

Periodicity of meetings of the Task Force

15. It is envisaged that WHO would convene the Task Force twice annually, which would include a one-day annual session devoted to tobacco control and the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. While the meetings will be led by WHO, it is proposed that each meeting be co-chaired by WHO together with another member of the Task Force through rotation. Efforts should be made to have different members host the meetings, including in low- and middle-income countries. Additional regional and ad hoc meetings could also be convened by WHO, as deemed necessary. Meetings will be held by default at the seats of the convening or partner institutions.

16. In accordance with the objective of the Task Force, a biennial workplan will be developed, which will be monitored and reviewed during the meetings of the Task Force.

Secretariat for the Task Force

17. The Task Force will be convened and led by WHO, which will provide the secretariat for the Task Force. The secretariat for the Task Force will be an integral part of the WHO Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health Cluster.

18. The main responsibilities of the secretariat for the Task Force will be to:

- Convene and lead meetings of the Task Force.
- Encourage and facilitate strategic collaborative arrangements and alliances among the members of the Task Force to enhance support to national-level efforts to realize the commitments made by Heads of State and Government in the Political Declaration, in particular through the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.
- Create and manage a virtual practice community for members of the Task Force.
- Create and update an online inventory of commitments and activities of the members of the Task Force on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
- Act as a point of enquiries and information regarding activities being undertaken by members of the Task Force.
- Prepare summary reports of the meetings of the Task Force and publish these at www.who.int/nmh/en, as well as progress reports in achieving the objectives of the Task Force, which will serve as an input into a global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
- Coordinate the preparation of the report to the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General and incorporate the work of the former Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, including the work to support the accelerated implementation by parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
- Without prejudice to the accountability obligations of the Task Force, inform the Economic and Social Council and the World Health Assembly on a regular basis on the progress made by the Task Force in the implementation of the

WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020, including an evaluation assessing its contribution as part of the final report foreseen for 2021.

Administrative arrangements for the secretariat for the Task Force

19. WHO programme budgets will include budgetary provisions for the activities of the secretariat for the Task Force.

20. Members of the Task Force should, in principle, be responsible for meeting their own expenses in relation to activities under the Task Force (including, but not limited to, travel and subsistence for attending meetings and inter-agency collaborations).

Accountability

21. In accordance with paragraph 1 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/12, the Task Force will report to the Council through the Secretary-General and incorporate the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, including the work to support the accelerated implementation by parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Conflicts of interest

22. Public health policies for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases must be protected from undue influence by any form of vested interest.[d]

23. In carrying out responsibilities under the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020, members of the Task Force are guided by their relevant conflict of interest policies.

24. Should a conflict of interest arise from a situation involving members of the Task Force or external parties, the secretariat for the Task Force will be required to act as a repository with a view to compiling incidents of conflicts of interest and provide a platform to discuss such issues.

Links with a global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

25. In paragraph 3.2 of resolution 66.10, the World Health Assembly requested the WHO Director General to develop draft terms of reference for a global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

26. The Task Force, in accordance with its mandate provided by the Economic and Social Council, and within the respective mandates of its members, will contribute, as appropriate, to the work of a global coordination mechanism and participate accordingly.

Division of tasks and responsibilities

27. The division of tasks and responsibilities outlines how the members of the Task Force will work jointly and collectively to coordinate the activities of the relevant United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to

[d] In accordance with the overarching principles and approaches included in paragraph 18 of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.

support the realization of the commitments made by Heads of State and Government in the Political Declaration, in particular through the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.

28. These tasks and responsibilities build on, and include, existing work being undertaken on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases by members of the Task Force. The work areas identified by members of the Task Force are dynamic in nature and may reflect changes that may be necessitated by emerging health risks, shifts in disease burdens and new requirements identified by Member States. The Task Force will include in its reporting to the Economic and Social Council and the World Health Assembly a biennial update of the division of tasks and responsibilities, and amendments, as appropriate.

29. The following division of tasks and responsibilities is organized around the six objectives of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020, and currently includes 27 work areas within the six objectives. Each objective has convening and partner institutions, acting in accordance with their respective mandates, as appropriate.

30. The responsibilities of convening institutions are as follows:

- To determine a scope of work, develop a workplan and report progress against it, as it pertains to the objectives of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.
- To facilitate the identification of country-level needs and lead on setting the agenda across the United Nations system.
- To ensure that work is in line with the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020 and to encourage the harmonization of activities across the United Nations system.
- To safeguard public health interests from undue influence by any form of real, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
- To lead advocacy and communication on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases across the United Nations system, in line with the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.
- To provide timely inputs to the secretariat for the Task Force to enable it to draft reports to the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General, including the work to support the accelerated implementation by parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and to report to the World Health Assembly on the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.
- To report, as appropriate, on progress made in integrating relevant activities into the agendas of their respective governing bodies.

31. The responsibilities of partner institutions are as follows:

- To support the determination of a scope of work and development of a workplan and report progress against it, as it pertains to the objectives of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.
- To collaborate on activities that are in line with the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020 and to support the harmonization of activities across the United Nations system.

- To work with convening institutions to safeguard public health from undue influence by any form of real, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
- To work with convening institutions to support advocacy and communication on non-communicable diseases across the United Nations system, in line with the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.
- To support convening institutions in providing timely inputs to the secretariat for the Task Force to enable it to draft reports to the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General, including the work to support the accelerated implementation by parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and to report to the World Health Assembly on the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.
- To report, as appropriate, on activities of the Task Force to their respective governing bodies and/or relevant bodies.

32. A division of tasks and responsibilities is outlined in the table below. This table was developed by organizations in the United Nations system, taking into account discussions between December 2011 and July 2013,[e] and builds on appendix 4 to the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.[f] The table was finalized during the first meeting of the Task Force, held in Geneva on 2 and 3 October 2013.

[e] The full list of meetings is available from www.who.int/nmh/events/ncd_task_force/en/.

[f] Examples of collaborative divisions of tasks and responsibilities: concerns a provisional list only. A division of labour is being developed by the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies.

Division of tasks and responsibilities for the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (as at 3 October 2013)

Objective[a]	*Convening institutions*	*Suggested areas of work*	*Linkages with actions for international partners*[b]	*Partner institutions*
1. To raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control of NCDs in global, regional and national agendas and internationally agreed development goals, through strengthened international cooperation and advocacy	WHO	1.1 Advocacy for attention to/integration of NCDs in the international development agenda/goals	23 (a), (b), (c), (f)	IAEA UNAIDS UNDP UN-Habitat UNICEF UNSCN
		1.2 Multi-stakeholder partnership management and resource mobilization	23 (d), (e)	IAEA UNAIDS UNDP UN-Habitat WFP
		1.3 Mainstreaming of the prevention and control of NCDs in international development cooperation initiatives	23 (c)	FAO IAEA UNAIDS UNDP UNEP UNICEF UNSCN World Bank
2. To strengthen national capacity, leadership, governance, multisectoral action and partnerships to accelerate country response for the prevention and control of NCDs	UNAIDS (for 2.3 only) UNDP WHO	2.1 Multisectoral action planning and coordination	32 (a), (g)	UNAIDS
		2.2 Mainstreaming of the prevention and control of NCDs in national development plans/poverty reduction strategies	32 (d), (g)	FAO IAEA IARC UNAIDS UN-Habitat UNFPA

Objective[a]	*Convening institutions*	*Suggested areas of work*	*Linkages with actions for international partners*[b]	*Partner institutions*
				UNHCR
				UNICEF
				UNSCN
				WFP
				World Bank
		2.3 Integrate NCDs and HIV responses where appropriate	32 (g) and 50 (b)	ILO
				UNFPA
				UNHCR
				World Bank
		2.4 Innovative financing for national NCD responses	50 (a) and 32 (g)	World Bank
		2.5 Supporting enabling legal and regulatory environments that promote favourable health outcomes for NCDs (including universal access to essential medicines and basic technologies)	32 (f) and (g)	IDLO
				UNFPA
				WIPO
				WTO[c]
				World Bank
		2.6 Addressing gender and human rights dimensions of NCD prevention and control in national NCD responses	32 (e) and (g)	IDLO
				UNFPA
3. To reduce modifiable risk factors for NCDs and underlying social determinants through creation of health-promoting environments	Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control[d]	3.1 Implementation of the WHO Framework Convention, taking into account the matrix summarizing the areas of collaboration included in para. 61 of document E/2012/70	45	Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention
	FAO			UNCTAD
	ILO[e]			UNDP
	UNFPA[f]			World Bank
	UNICEF	3.2 National capacity development to implement the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol	45	UNDP
	WHO			UNICEF
				World Bank

Objective[a]	*Convening institutions*	*Suggested areas of work*	*Linkages with actions for international partners*[b]	*Partner institutions*
		3.3 Implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health	45	IAEA UNDP UNEP World Bank
		3.4 National capacity development to reduce the risk of NCDs among children/adolescents	45	FAO IAEA UNFPA UNICEF[g] WFP
		3.5 National capacity development to reduce the risk of NCDs among women and girls	32 (a), (e), (f), (g)	IAEA UNDP UNICEF UNFPA[g] UNHCR WFP
		3.6 NCD prevention and care integrated into maternal health	32 (a), (e), (f), (g)	IAEA UNAIDS UNFPA[g] UNICEF UNHCR WFP
		3.7 Health promotion in environment and energy policies	32 (a), (e), (g)	UNDP UNEP World Bank
		3.8 Health promotion in the education sector	32 (a), (e), (g)	ILO UNEP UNICEF[g] World Bank

Objective[a]	*Convening institutions*	*Suggested areas of work*	*Linkages with actions for international partners*[b]	*Partner institutions*
		3.9 Health promotion in the labour sector, including occupational safety and health	32 (a), (e), (g)	ILO UNEP
		3.10 Health/nutrition promotion in the agricultural sector and in food systems	32 (a), (e)	ILO UNEP UNSCN
4. To strengthen and orient health systems to address the prevention and control of NCDs and the underlying social determinants through people-centred primary health care and universal health coverage	WHO IAEA (for 4.4 only)	4.1 Health system strengthening to address NCDs	50 (b), (d)	ITU UNAIDS UNDP UNFPA UNHCR UNICEF World Bank
		4.2 Resource mobilization for financing of universal health coverage that incorporates NCD prevention and care	50 (a)	UNAIDS UNDP UNFPA UNICEF World Bank
		4.3 Promote the development of electronic communications technologies and the use of mobile devices	50 (c)	IAEA UNICEF
		4.4 Support increased access to radiation medicine	50 (c)	IAEA
5. To promote and support national capacity for high-quality research and development for the prevention and control of NCDs	WHO	5.1 Promote an international research agenda that ensures the next generation of medicines and technologies for NCDs	55	IAEA IARC UNDP

Objective[a]	*Convening institutions*	*Suggested areas of work*	*Linkages with actions for international partners*[b]	*Partner institutions*
		5.2 Support national efforts to increase access to existing essential medicines and basic technologies to treat NCDs	55	IAEA ITU UNAIDS UNCTAD UNDP UNHCR UNFPA WIPO WTO[c]
6. To monitor the trends and determinants of NCDs and evaluate progress in their prevention and control	WHO	6.1 National NCD monitoring and surveillance systems	61	IARC UN-Habitat UNICEF World Bank
		6.2 Regular reporting against global voluntary targets	61	UN-Habitat

Note: The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace will assess opportunities to contribute as a convening or partner institution in a number of areas in the table, for example through the establishment of a "Sport and health" thematic working group in the context of the Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group.

Abbreviations: FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; IAEA, International Atomic Energy Agency; IARC, International Agency for Research on Cancer; IDLO, International Development Law Organization; ILO, International Labour Organization; ITU, International Telecommunication Union; NCD, non-communicable disease; UNAIDS, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNSCN, Standing Committee on Nutrition; WFP, World Food Programme; WIPO, World Intellectual Property Organization; WTO, World Trade Organization.

[a] The six objectives in this table are the six objectives included in the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020. These objectives are linked to the nine voluntary global targets, as referenced in appendix 3 to the Global Action Plan.

[b] Included in the WHO Global Action Plan 2013-2020.

[c] In carrying out this task, WTO will provide technical and factual information regarding relevant WTO agreements in order to support, upon request, relevant ministries and government departments to address the interface between trade policies and health issues in the area of non-communicable diseases.

[d] As pertains to area of work 3.1.

[e] As pertains to area of work 3.9.

[f] As pertains to areas of work 3.5 and 3.6.

[g] Will facilitate this area of work.

Potential members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

Relevant programmes and funds reporting directly to the General Assembly:

- International Trade Centre
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Capital Development Fund
- United Nations Volunteers programme
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- United Nations Population Fund
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- World Food Programme

Other relevant United Nations entities reporting directly to the General Assembly:

- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- United Nations Office for Project Services
- United Nations System Staff College
- United Nations University
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

Regional commissions reporting directly to the Economic and Social Council:

- Economic Commission for Africa
- Economic Commission for Europe
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Other related relevant bodies reporting directly to the Economic and Social Council:

- International Narcotics Control Board
- United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition

Relevant offices of the United Nations Secretariat:

- Executive Office of the Secretary-General
- United Nations Office for Partnerships
- Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including the Division of Social Policy and Development and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Department of Public Information
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
- Office on Sport for Development and Peace

Relevant specialized agencies, related organizations, funds and other United Nations entities:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- International Labour Organization
- International Maritime Organization
- International Monetary Fund
- International Telecommunication Union
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- Standing Committee on Nutrition (a subsidiary body of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination)
- Universal Postal Union
- World Bank Group
- World Health Organization, including the International Agency for Research on Cancer
- World Intellectual Property Organization
- World Meteorological Organization
- World Tourism Organization

Relevant related organizations:

- International Atomic Energy Agency
- World Trade Organization

Relevant secretariats of conventions:

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

United Nations trust funds:

- United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Relevant intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly:

- International Criminal Police Organization
- International Development Law Organization
- International Organization for Migration
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- Common Fund for Commodities
- World Customs Organization
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Other relevant entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly:

- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- International Olympic Committee
- Inter-Parliamentary Union